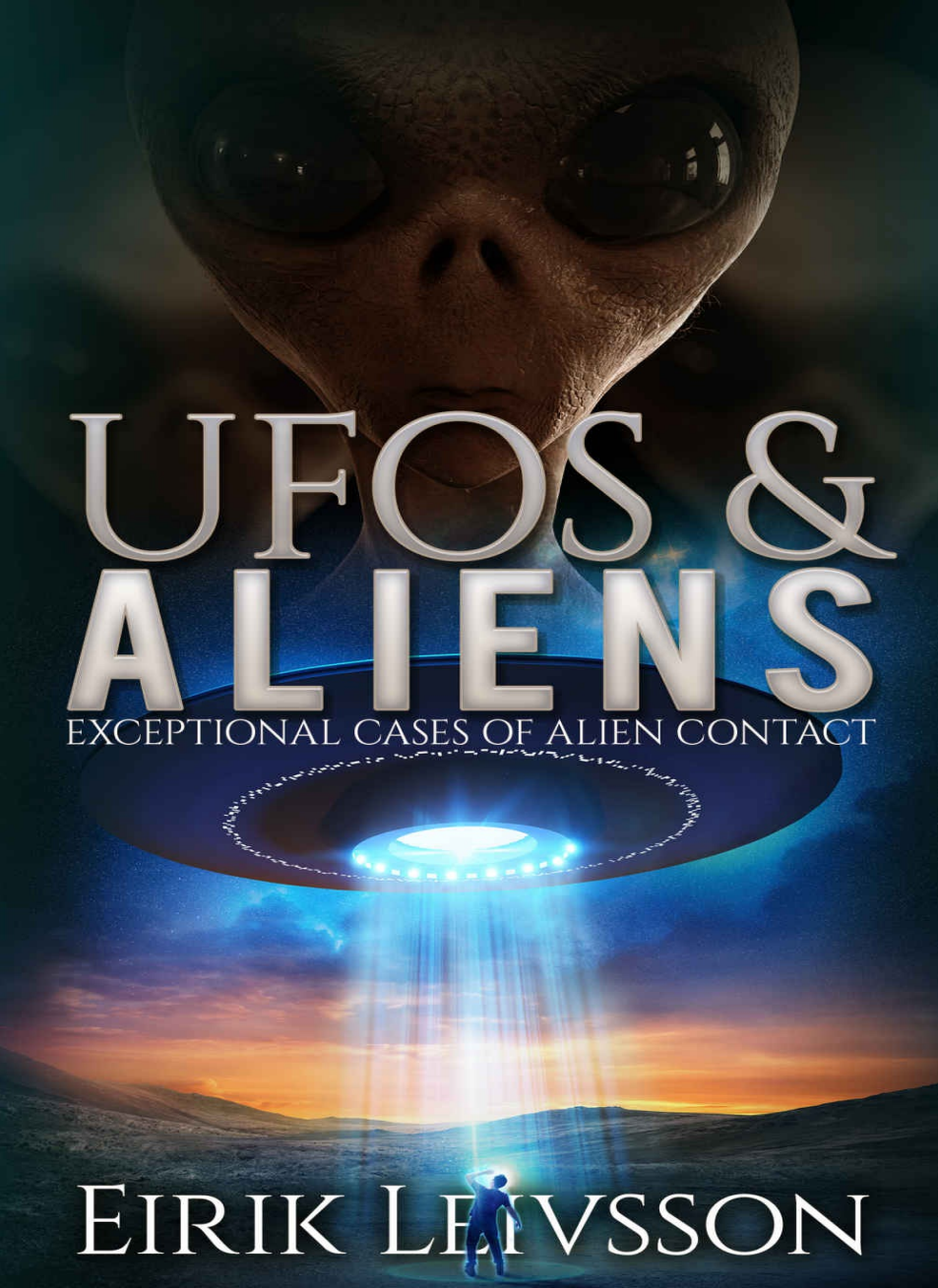
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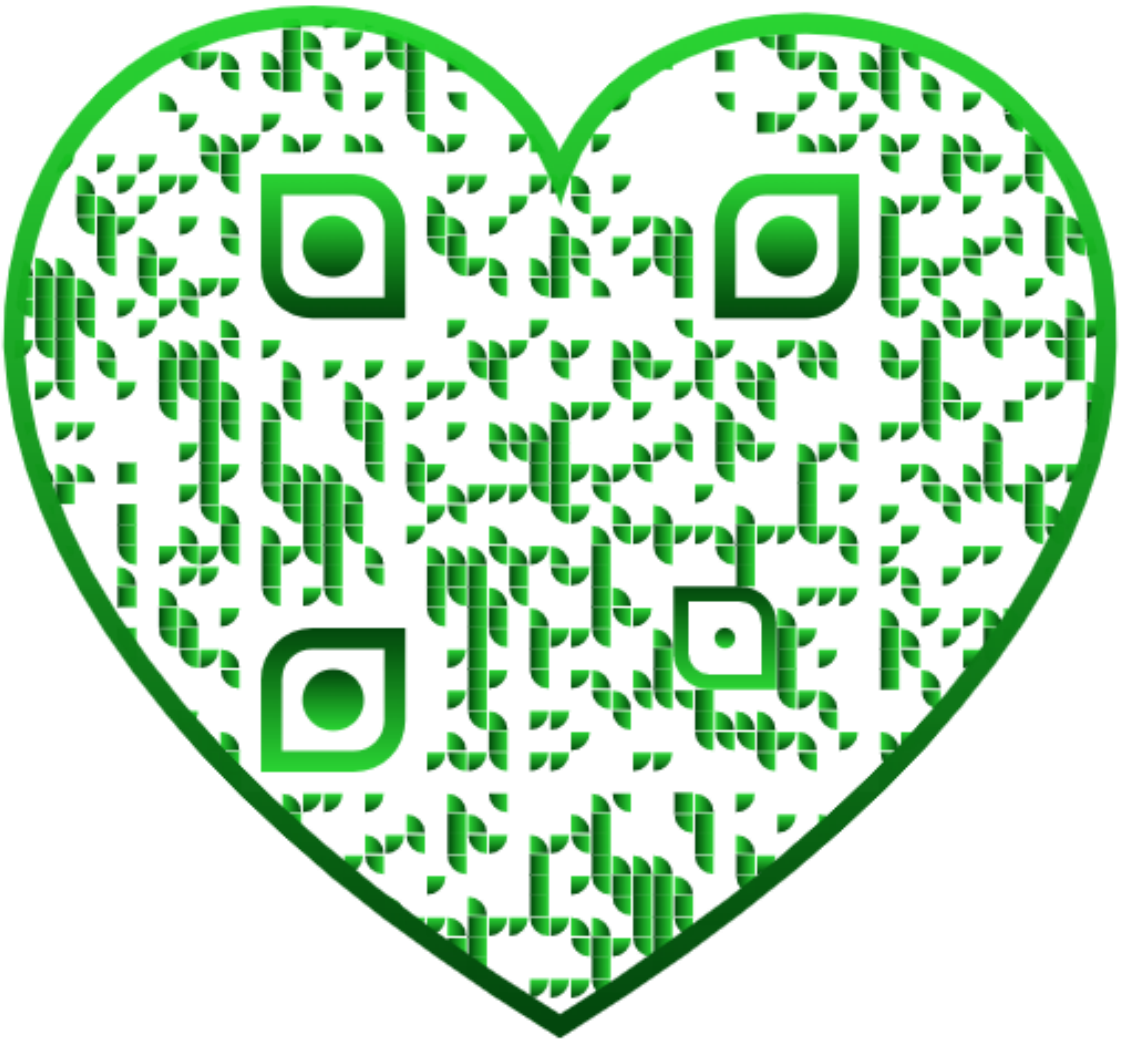

UFOs and Aliens

Exceptional Cases of

Alien Contact

By Eirik Leivsson

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Introduction

We humans are naturally curious beings. Throughout history, we have continually been fascinated by that which we can't explain. We have strived to gain more knowledge about the world around us, and to discover the truth about the nature of reality itself. Since the advent of the scientific method, our collective knowledge has expanded like never before.

There are certain phenomena, however, that seem to escape reason. Sometimes, all the puzzle pieces cannot be put together so easily. Such is the case with strange enigmas like the Loch Ness Monster, Big Foot, the Bermuda Triangle, and the existence and visitation of highly intelligent beings other than ourselves. The last mentioned is probably one of the most captivating mysteries of our time.

Many of us are fascinated with the idea of extraterrestrial intelligence. The existence of highly evolved beings elsewhere in the universe is commonly thought of as probable. If any of them have visited our planet, however, is more debated. Still, people from all over the world

have come forward with intriguing stories of alien contact. Stories which seem to suggest that this may actually be the case.

While most of these accounts are compelling by their very nature, a few of them stand out as particularly awe-inspiring. Some of these exceptional, real-life cases are detailed in this book.

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Chapter 1

The Flatwoods Monster, 1952

The Flatwoods Monster, also known as the Braxton County Monster, was named after the place where the strange creature was first seen. The initial sighting of this "Phantom of the Woods" happened on September 12, 1952 in the village of Flatwoods in West Virginia, United States. That night, many people reported seeing strange objects hovering over parts of Virginia, Washington DC, and other places along the eastern part of the country.

13-year old Edward and 12-year old Fred, sons of Kathleen May, were playing football in the school playground along with their 10-year old friend Tommy Hyer, when a strange object appeared in the sky. They looked on as the UFO crash-landed atop a hill near the farm of their neighbor, G. Bailey Fisher. Startled, they rushed home to tell their mother, Kathleen, what they saw. Kathleen, the village beautician, grabbed a flashlight — as it was already 7:15 in the evening by then — and went with the boys to search for the object. They were now

accompanied by three other boys: 10-year-old Ronnie Shaver, 14-year-old Neil Nunley, and 17-year-old Eugene Lemon — a West Virginia National Guardsman — who had his dog with him.

On their way to the farm, Gene's dog ran ahead and disappeared from their sight. They could still hear it barking and was surprised to see it running back to them, clearly terrified of something. That didn't stop Kathleen and the boys from proceeding, however. When they eventually reached the top of the hill, which was around 1300 feet from where they started, they noticed a strange smell coming from an even stranger mist. Kathleen described the scene as *"foggy, and there was a mist in the evening air"*. She went on to say *"the air had a metallic smell which burned our eyes and noses"*. After a few moments, some of the group started feeling nauseated.

Suddenly, they saw what seemed to be a huge ball of fire, about 10 feet in diameter. It was a mere 100 yards away from them, but that wasn't all. A few moments later, Gene noticed a pair of small lights to the left of the fire ball. He pointed his flashlight towards the oak tree where he saw the strange lights. Standing in front of them, they saw a tall figure somewhat resembling a man, but which at closer inspection was clearly not human.

For reasons unknown, possibly due to the mix of intense fear and the dark of night, the description of the creature varies slightly between the witnesses. The so-called "Flatwoods Monster" supposedly stood at around 7 feet tall. Some of them said it was closer to 10 or even 11 feet in height. Its diamond-shaped head was elongated, while its inhuman face was dark with a subtle glow to it. Other witnesses described the creature's head as being hood shaped, like an Ace of Spades, with a red, round face. Its eyes were large and alien. The body was completely dark and void of any notable color. Some of them claimed it was green, and that is was clothed from the waist down in what looked like drapes.

As the group froze in fear of the extraordinary and horrifying sight, the strange, towering creature emitted a high-pitched hissing sound before slowly approaching them. The alien being glided towards them, but then changed direction and went towards the red ball of fire. Terrified, the group ran away as fast as they could, without looking back.

When they returned home, Kathleen called Robert Carr, the local sheriff, and told him what just transpired. She also called A. Lee Stewart, Jr., the co-owner of the local

newspaper “Braxton Democrat”. Carr, along with his deputy Burnell Long, went to the Fisher farm to investigate the scene. When the two men got there, they could still smell the pungent, nauseating scent. The sheriff described the scent as a *“sickening, burnt, metallic odor”*. Carr and Long combed the area separately, but found nothing else to prove the encounter. Meanwhile, Stewart conducted interviews with all of the witnesses. He would later venture to the location of the encounter together with Gene Lemon, who showed him around the scene and explained the details of the incident.

Come morning, Stewart went to the scene accompanied by one of Kathleen’s sons and did some investigating of his own. He found two elongated tracks and some black liquid in the mud. Stewart speculated that it might have been the imprint of a UFO landing. He made that assumption after discovering that no vehicle had passed through that area in over a year. However, it was later revealed that local Max Lockard, who got hold of the news, drove his 1942 Chevrolet pickup truck to the scene, a few hours before Stewart went there. It turned out that some of the boys called their classmates and told them what they witnessed. Lockard also heard about the sighting and got curious, and left several skid marks while he was there.

Many of those who saw the creature got sick right after the encounter. They all experienced nasal irritation and inflammation of the throat. Gene Lemon was vomiting and convulsing the following night, and developed throat problems which lasted for weeks. His dog also became sick, and died a few weeks later from the illness. The witnesses believed that their exposure to the pungent mist had caused their condition. A doctor who examined them noted that they had the same symptoms as someone who is exposed to mustard gas.

"UFOlogists" Gray Barker, Ivan T. Sanderson, and Major Donald E. Keyhoe did their own investigation of the incident, and firmly concluded that Kathleen and the boys did have an encounter of the third kind that night. They also believed that the illuminated objects seen by many were connected to the appearance of the so-called Flatwoods Monster.

Of course, as with any paranormal event, there were skeptics. Sheriff Carr, Johnny Lockard, father of Max, and two US Air Force men who disguised themselves as reporters were very vocal that what everyone saw was merely a meteor. Carr also thought that the two lights that Gene Lemon saw that night belonged to some animal whose eyes reflected a light or shone through the dark.

The two disguised Air Force men also interviewed a local man who claimed he saw something fall from the sky. The man figured it was an aircraft about to crash land, so he promptly alerted the sheriff. In fact, Sheriff Carr and Long just came from investigating this supposed crash (and came up empty) when Kathleen called them on the night of the alien encounter. Most non-believers consider the Flatwoods Monster as nothing more than a Tyto Alba, a kind of owl which somewhat resembles the description made by Kathleen and the boys, though admittedly much smaller than the supposed alien being.

Further investigation discovered that there were other people in the 20-mile radius from the Fisher farm who witnessed the lighted objects floating in the sky, around the time of the first sighting of the creature. A man from Birch River claimed he saw a bright, orange object hovering in circles above Flatwoods. A couple was also reported to have seen the creature as well as the bright lights in the sky, while a woman and her mother — who were situated eleven miles from the scene of the encounter — saw a towering figure in the distance, believed to be the same, strange being. These are just a few of the staggering 116 reported sightings of UFOs during that eventful night.

The summer of 1952 would later be known as the "Summer of Saucers", as lots of UFO sightings were reported at the time. It is rumored that the US Air Force knew about the frequent displays of the apparent extraterrestrial visitors, and ordered their personnel to shoot them down.

One event that people connect with the sightings was the death of 2nd Lt. John A. Jones, Jr., and radar observer John Del Curto. The two were aboard a USAF F-94 fighter plane when they perished under mysterious circumstances. This happened on September 12, 1952. Some officers, now retired, claimed that fighter jets were sent to intercept flying saucers that flew over Washington DC and the eastern part of the United States. Four of these UFOs reportedly received direct hits, and one in particular crash landed in West Virginia — which is believed to be the craft that was connected to the Flatwoods Monster.

General Benjamin Chidlaw, then Head of Air Defense Command, was quoted as saying their unit had stacks of reports about the UFOs, and that they took them seriously because they *"lost many men and planes trying to intercept them."* If those words truly came out of a respected general's mouth, then the existence of UFOs, especially during that summer of 1952, shouldn't be so

easily doubted. Edward J. Ruppelt, Project Blue Book mainstay and the man who coined the term "unidentified flying object" (UFO), was also quoted as saying there were other, more lurid *'duels of death'* taking place, which many believe pertain to the aerial battles between man and ETs.

Chapter 2

The Kelly-Hopkinsville Encounter, 1955

On August 21, 1955, Billy Ray Taylor and his family from Pennsylvania were visiting Elmer "Lucky" Sutton and his family at their farmhouse in Kelly, a town near the city of Hopkinsville — located in the rural area of Christian County, Kentucky, USA.

As the Taylors and Suttons were spending the evening catching up inside the farmhouse, Billy Ray went outside to get some water from the water pump. Suddenly, he noticed a number of odd lights hovering in the western sky. Looking closely, he realized that there was a disc-shaped craft with different-colored lights illuminating the sides. Standing there awe-struck for a moment, Billy Ray hastily ran back inside to alert the rest of the group. Elmer dismissed his wild claims with a cheeky smile, insisting

that it was nothing but a shooting star. Not wanting to seem crazy, Billy Ray calmed down and resumed his seat at the family table.

An hour later, the Sutton's dog — who was outside in the yard — started barking, and strange noises could be heard nearby. Suddenly, the barking stopped completely, and the dog was heard scrambling across the yard before it went completely quiet. It would later be discovered that the dog hid under the house and stayed there until the next morning, as a result of what greeted it near the Sutton's lawn.

Worried about the sudden silence from their trusted canine, Billy Ray and Elmer went outside, armed with shotguns and ready for action. As they peeked outside the main entrance, they were met with an astonishing sight. Standing near the front of the house was a stranger of a very different kind. The witnesses would later describe the being as standing at least 3 feet tall with a silver body, possibly a metallic suit. It had long arms with talon-like hands and thin, weak-looking legs. Its ears were especially pronounced, with a long and pointy look to them. At times the being appeared to be floating, and moved in a strange manner, as if it was wading through water.

As soon as creature and the two men spotted each other, the being started walking towards them with its hands raised up in the air. Though the creature seemed to be surrendering or — at least — did not seem to be hostile, the two men unloaded their guns on it out of pure fear. Billy Ray and Elmer were quite experienced with their firearms, and were absolutely sure that they hit the creature — which stood a mere 20 feet from them. To their surprise, they clearly heard what seemed like bullets bouncing off a metal drum. Despite this violent hail of gunfire, however, the unknown creature simply turned around and headed towards the nearby woods at great speed.

Elmer and Billy Ray decided to chase after the creature, but even before they could leave the porch they noticed a small hand reaching for them from the roof. They quickly shot at it, and down floated another — seemingly identical — creature to the ground, before scurrying away into some trees nearby and disappearing from sight. The two men rushed inside the house and scrambled to lock the front door. J.C. Sutton — Elmer's brother — saw another creature peeking through one of the windows a few minutes later. They fired at it, breaking the window and leaving a number of holes on the screen.

Throughout the evening, the creatures kept coming back and peeking through the windows, as if they were taunting the terrified family. The group of witnesses counted around 12 to 15 of the creatures. However, they only ever saw 2 of them at the same time. The creatures were scampering on top of the roof as if they were trying to break into the farmhouse. The men of the family continued to frantically shoot at the windows and the walls, in a desperate attempt to get rid of the alien creatures. This went on for hours, before the family finally decided to rush out and get help.

At 11 in the evening, the two families hurried outside and managed to get to their vehicles. In a near panicked state, they drove directly to the Hopkinsville Police Station where they were led to Sheriff Russell Greenwell, the town's chief of police. Greenwell got the impression that the group was scared *"beyond reason by something beyond their comprehension"*. In fact, when Billy Taylor's pulse was checked, it was double that of the normal rate. He further described the Suttons as the kind who rarely asked for help from the authorities, and that they were sober and — as far as he could tell — completely sane.

Understandably, the police were initially highly skeptical

of the family's story. When Greenwell and 20 other officers were finally convinced to go to the scene, they noticed the bullet holes that riddled the house, along with hundreds of empty bullet shells that were spread around. However, there was no sign of the strange intruders at all. The police went around the neighborhood and discovered that other people, including police officers and a state highway trooper, witnessed strange lights and noises coming from the sky.

The highway trooper reported seeing meteor-like objects in the air that made a sound similar to artillery fire. The police tried to locate the source of the lights or any trace of the alien intruders, but to no avail. However, they did find a luminous patch on the fence where one of the creatures was supposedly shot. This patch was photographed, but a sample wasn't collected, hindering any further, serious investigation of the inexplicable substance.

The authorities eventually left the neighborhood around 2:15 in the morning, with nothing to show for it except various eyewitness accounts of unknown phenomena. Soon after they left the Sutton's farmhouse, the strange creatures returned and peered through the windows once again. The family responded with a new barrage of gunshots. The

families feeling trapped and unable to sleep, this went on until 4:35 in the morning. Later that morning, the police were alerted, and sought help from the Air Force. By this time, the creatures had long since disappeared, and Elmer and Billy Ray had momentarily left to take care of some important business. Representatives from the Air Force came to the scene, surveyed the area, and interviewed the rest of the family members one by one.

The strange event ultimately caught the attention of the local news media. The *Kentucky New Era* newspaper published the story of the alien visitors, which was met with ridicule by most of its readers. The families didn't want any publicity at all, and were highly upset when they knew the story had leaked. They did not receive any money from the media whatsoever. UFOlogists have later noted this, adding that it made no sense for them to shoot up their own house, only to spend their hard-earned money to repair the damages, just to get ridiculed by their neighbors.

Elmer, Billy Ray and five others from the group were later interviewed on live radio by Andrew "Bud" Ledwith — who happened to be an engineer and a professional artist. Ledwith drew what was later to be famously known as the "goblins" or "green men" of Hopkinsville. Oddly enough,

with the apparently mischievous taunting combined with their particular appearance, the beings seem to draw many parallels to the creatures known as goblins from medieval folklore.

Most people saw this event as a hoax, but that didn't stop many curious parties from coming to see the place where the extraordinary encounter supposedly happened. Not wanting to become an attraction, the family readily tried to get rid of these curious tourists. However, when it became clear that they couldn't keep the people from coming, they decided that charging them a fee would discourage them. Though the family did earn some money after a while, they were not happy with what was occurring, so they finally refused everyone altogether, putting up signs and fences to repel newcomers. They were also adamant about not giving interviews from then on, turning down journalists, authors and UFO-enthusiasts alike.

Skeptics of the Hopkinsville encounter believe that what the people of the town saw that night were not UFOs or alien beings, and came up with a number of mundane — if somewhat unfounded — explanations. Major John E. Albert of the U.S. Air Force claimed that the supposed aliens were actually silver-painted monkeys that could have escaped from the circus. Renaud Lecletit, a French

UFOlogist, thought the strange beings were the nocturnal yellow-eyed great horned owls — though he failed to explain their highly uncharacteristic behaviors. Joe Nickell, a known skeptic of paranormal occurrences, believed that the sightings of lights in the sky were not UFOs, but simply meteors.

A year after the Kelly-Hopkinsville Encounter, Dr, Joseph Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies — or CUFOS — managed to get a hold of two persons privy to detailed information about the encounter. Another UFO aficionado, Isabel Davis, conducted her own investigation about the occurrences. The two, along with Ledwith (the engineer and radio host), agreed that what the Suttons and Taylors saw that night were indeed extraterrestrial beings. Since then, UFOlogists have considered the events of the Hopkinsville Goblins Case as one of the most important cases of close encounters with intelligent, alien lifeforms.

Nowadays, the event that took place on that fateful night of August 21, 1955 has become an attraction of sorts, especially among the townsfolk of Kelly, Hopkinsville. In fact, the locals now celebrate the Kelly "Little Green Men" Days Festival every third weekend of August.

Chapter 3

The Westall Encounter, 1966

April 6, 1966, on a bright morning in Clayton, a suburb in Melbourne, Australia, one of the most notorious incidents in UFO history took place. It was a sunny, breezy morning perfect for the students of Westall High School to partake in normal fitness activities and enjoy the wonderful outdoors. It was just after 11 AM when a bizarre aircraft streaked across the sky. It loomed, massive and metallic, hovering above pine trees about a quarter mile behind the school. The children and their instructors watched in abject fascination as the dazzling, disc-like craft sat above the trees. It was unlike anything they'd ever seen before. What they guessed to be about the size two large cars at a distance, the craft was truly a massive sight.

Abruptly, the craft flew across the soft field behind the school and then returned to its position stationary above the pine trees, before descending out of sight, hidden behind the tree boughs. Swooping in from the opposite direction of the craft were what appeared to be four or

five private aircrafts darting after the craft that disappeared behind the pine trees. Bursting into view, the gargantuan craft rose to meet the private aircrafts and seemed to face off. In an elaborate game of cat and mouse, the foreign vessel took off and the other aircrafts followed in quick pursuit. They were no match for the speed of the silver disk. In a flash, it took off into the distance, and the other aircraft finally gave up their pursuit. This whole ordeal took place in an estimated span of 20 minutes.

With over 200 witnesses and varying stories that increase in both strangeness and horror, the Westall UFO encounter is thought to be one of the biggest UFO/ET cover-ups in existence. With so many witnesses and media coverage, it is astounding and suspect that there was so little information that surfaced in the years after the event. Decades after the incident, however, reports and testimonies finally began to surface which shed new light on the encounter with the eerie silver object in the sky, and further perpetuates the notion that someone or something persuaded the witnesses to keep their silence.

Andrew Greenwood — a teacher at the high school and one of the only staff said to have witnessed the disk — initially relayed his story to the local newspapers. Greenwood reported seeing the object flash above the

pine trees in what looked like a stunning beam of light. Later in his life, Greenwood revealed the he was eventually visited by men at his residence who told him to keep quiet, citing the Official Secrets Act of Australia. If he didn't, they would get him fired from the school, and discredit his statements by spreading rumors of him being an unstable alcoholic.

A student of Greenwood's who also saw the craft claimed that it was a huge silver craft that was hunted by a group of Cessna planes as it floated over the pine trees. When the craft rose to the height of the Cessna's the student said it was a similar length but much thinner. The student, with two of his friends, decided to investigate the field behind the pine trees where the craft descended for a few moments before the Cessnas arrived. They were met with a hefty, flattened circle that had no telling track marks near it. No ordinary animal or machinery seemed to have made it; it had to have come from above.

As if that was not alarming enough, additional reports of the incident tell of a girl who was found unconscious near the area where the craft hovered. Students confessed that the girl, a trained runner, dashed to the area and got there well before anyone else could. After the silver craft took off, they were horrified to find the girl collapsed and

dazed. An ambulance was rushed to the scene and supposedly took the young girl to a hospital. In a spooky turn of events, the girl never returned to Westall High. Stranger still, when a good friend of hers went to check on her, she was met with a woman who claimed that the girl never even lived there. The girl and her family were gone. Other witness accounts paint a vivid picture of two smaller disk-like crafts that sat near the front of Westall High, but these testaments are scattered and few in number.

So how, with a witness head count of over 200, is it possible to have so many gaps in the story? UFO enthusiasts and dabblers alike whisper cover-up, and there are some accounts that read like red flags.

On April 9, 1966, the scene of the UFO-field behind the trees-was invaded by military personnel shortly after the incident. “Truckloads” scoured the area with devices that closely resembled metal detectors. The men were said to have taken precise measurements of the depression made by the craft and then burned the evidence. In other stories, although the military arrived, there was nothing found because there was no official report filed. Had there been evidence, surely there would have been documentation. In another account, the farmer who owned the land, sick of

everyone trespassing to visit the site, admitted to burning the land himself.

Just five days after the military left, the Dandenong Journal, a news source in the area, was told that staff and students from the school would not allow additional interviews, and denied any and all reporters from investigating. It is rumored that two men in navy suits showed up to the school and advised the staff to steer clear of the media, that there was nothing extraterrestrial, and to not speak a word about what they saw. Some testimonies state that the head of the faculty was threatened by the men.

In a twist that seems to confirm the presence of these men, the headmaster called an emergency assembly where he proceeded to inform the students that the silver object was nothing but a balloon deployed by the military, and that they should remain secretive about what happened. One teacher who had presence of mind to whip out her camera was allegedly taken roughly aside and forced to give up her film. The final clue was a video. News Channel 9 GTV actually took witness accounts of the saucer, which they recorded on tape and broadcasted a single time. That tape — which was stored in their archives where nothing had ever gone missing before — inexplicably

disappeared.

Over the years, many experts have tried to debunk this UFO encounter. The heaviest reports are of the school's close proximity to an airport, where they could have been testing secret government aircrafts. However, during this time, Australia was not dealing in aircraft, as they'd just barely recovered after war efforts. The military craft that were produced around that period have since been declassified, which shows that there weren't any military aircraft at that airport in 1966. Others note that a large, silver weather balloon was allegedly launched some two hours before the incident, and could theoretically have been in the vicinity of Clayton during the incident. This, however, does not account for the disc shape, nor the sporadic movements of the object.

UFO investigators and scientists alike are still trying to solve this mystery.

Chapter 4

The Betty Andreasson Contact, 1967

On a chilly winter night in South Ashburnham, Massachusetts, on January 25, 1967, Betty Andreasson was in the kitchen when the lights suddenly started flickering. Andreasson's mother, father, and seven children were in the living room when the lights finally went out. It was just after 6:30 PM.

Andreasson was perturbed by bizarre reddish lights that flashed through the kitchen windows. As the sudden darkness enveloped the house, and the red lights shone through the front of the house, the children became terrified. By the sound of her children's distress, Betty fled the kitchen to comfort them, while her father went to investigate the red lights outside. Peering through the kitchen window, Andreasson's father witnessed a spectacular sight: In the glare of the red lights, five strange creatures, using a peculiar hopping motion, made their way towards the house. Mr. Andreasson headed back into the living room in time to see the creatures walk through

the family's thick, wooden front door, as if it was nonexistent. His eyes darted to his family; they appeared to be frozen where they stood.

Four of the creatures were around four feet tall with sharp slits for mouths, miniscule ears, wide eyes, small noses, and oblong heads that closely resembled a pear. The fifth creature — which appeared to be the leader of the group — stood at around five feet tall. Dressed in blue outfits — not unlike a wetsuit, with a board belt and a logo of what looked like a bird on the sleeves — the creatures looked to be in some sort of uniform, complete with matching pairs of slender boots. The sleeves of their clothing went all the way down to their three-fingered hands. Although the creatures had legs, they seemed to be floating slightly above the ground.

Mr. Andreasson watched in horror as the leader approached him. It was clear that the four others were having some sort of telepathic conversation with his daughter, Betty. Later, Betty would recall feeling terrified for her children, but also an overwhelming sense of peace and amity. Almost like they were old friends. Betty's fear did not go unnoticed by her guests. At the sign of Betty's mounting hysteria, the creatures released her daughter from her state of suspended animation as a gesture of good

will. Comforted by this, Betty followed the beings into her backyard.

Arriving at a deep slope, Betty was greeted by a massive metallic craft shaped like two inverted saucers that she estimated to be about 20 feet in diameter. Betty remembers boarding the craft, but not how she did it. The craft joined with a larger "mother" craft, where Betty was subjected to a series of examinations and experimentation that tested how she responded to all kinds of strange equipment. Sometime during these extensive and disturbing procedures, Betty succumbed to a crippling burst of pain that she claims transformed into an ethereal, transcendent experience that bordered on religious.

Four hours later, Betty was escorted back to her home by two of the smaller creatures. Her family was still frozen in place and guarded by one of the creatures that had been left behind. Upon her arrival, the creature released her family. She recalled the incident in flashes: the power surge, the red lights, the creatures entering through the door, but of her experiences on the ship, there were more blanks than answers. Initially, Betty, being a devote and faithful Christian woman, believed that her encounter was acutely religious, and that the creatures were sent as emissaries from the Almighty.

With nine witnesses to the strange encounter, Betty's story gained traction, but it wasn't until 1977 when a serious investigation was initiated. Lasting 12 months, Betty went through psychiatric evaluations, lie detector tests, and a total of 14 regressive hypnosis sessions. A team of experts including a solar physicist, UFO investigator, electrical engineer, aerospace engineer, a hypnotist, and a medical doctor all set forth to test the validity of Betty's story. The results of these tests can be found in a 528 page, three-volume publication. The case is open to this day.

During Betty Andreasson's regressive hypnosis, she speaks in an eerie and awed tone about an entity she referred to as "The One", though no actual name was mentioned by the beings. Betty relives being transported to a powerful light force which she felt radiated love and compassion. Lead through a wall of glass so immense that it could not be measured, Betty traveled through a maze of doors, before she was instructed to enter and meet "The One". Betty, in a mind-boggling and dramatic turn of events, remembers seeing herself in front of the door and stepping outside of herself, as if she were split into two people. At this point in the hypnosis transcripts, Betty was asked to describe "The One", but says she was specifically asked not to do so. When asked what "The

One" told her, she claimed she couldn't tell that either. Betty did, however, describe the being that lead her to "The One": a tall, white-haired man in a flowing robe. In an effort to ensure that Betty's memories aligned with the present, the hypnotist asked about her children. Betty replied that she had no children.

It turned out that Betty was relieving an earlier abduction which occurred when she was just 13 years old, and her memories of "The One" were from that first encounter. Delving further into Betty's buried memories; the recovered information paints a disquieting scene. Beings of over seven feet tall, humanoid, with long white robes, flowing blonde-white hair, and stark white skin — who Betty simply referred to as "The Elders" — appeared to be performing a sort of ritualistic magic. Watching from the sidelines, Betty witnessed three Elders step into a sectioned circle split into six equal parts. The Elders lifted their hands and joined together. Bizarre beams of light shot from their foreheads and collided in the center of the circle to form a massive, glowing triangle. Inside the triangle was a ring of blinding light. Another trio entered the circle and created a second triangle that combined with the first to form a perfect hexagon. The bright light intensified and rose, an expanding circle around the six Elders' heads. The light rings inside the hexagon rose and connected, birthing a sphere of soft purple light.

The next thing Betty could recall was a small green orb of light that transported her and the white-haired man to the wooded area filled with homeless people. The memories of what happened in the woods were muddled and unclear. Suddenly, a flash of blistering white light, and they were in a hospital room. An elderly man, who appeared to be inches from death, was surrounded by beings made of a hazy substance, two black and one white light. The beings were after something the man possessed and were apparently struggling to obtain it. The Elder shot an orb of light at the black creatures and they fled. Afterwards, Betty and the Elder were back in the woods. A silver saucer guarded by two gray creatures was poised and waiting. Betty was beckoned by one of the gray ones. The creature bestowed three balls of light to Betty. In a later interview, Betty remembered the acute sadness she felt at parting with those balls of light.

Both Betty and her daughter remembered details from the encounter through hypnosis. On top of that, the results of the lie detector and psychiatric tests showed that Betty was sane and telling the truth. Still, being one of the most fantastical and controversial stories of alien contact, Betty's account continues to face skepticism from naysayers and UFO enthusiasts alike.

Chapter 5

The Falcon Lake Landing, 1967

On a beautiful spring afternoon, on May 20, 1967, an industrial mechanic and amateur geologist named Stephen Michalak ventured into the wilderness near Falcon Lake in Manitoba, Canada and experienced what would come to be known as one of the most famous UFO encounters in the history of Canada.

Michalak set out from his home in Winnipeg and traveled to a motel near the Trans-Canada Highway. He was an experienced prospector, and was on his way to the Whiteshell Provincial Park, set on searching the mountainside for riches. After trekking some way into the woods, Michalak stumbled upon a promising quartz vein near a small brook. While he was examining the vein, at around 12:15 PM, the sound of geese overhead directed his eyes to the sky. No birds could be seen. Instead, Michalak was greeted by a disturbing and unnatural sight. Two cigar-shaped, red lights glowed brightly in the sky, and seemed to be coming in Michalak's direction. At first,

Michalak couldn't quite make them out, but as they swooped closer, the lights proved to be large, disc-shaped vessels of unknown origin.

Flashing from red to orange to gray, the crafts parted ways, one hovering as the other landed about 150 feet from Michalak, on top of a smooth rock. The parked craft was about 35 feet in diameter and appeared to be made of pristine stainless steel with a marked golden glow. Flashing colored lights radiated from the inside, so bright that even with Michalak wearing his protective welding glasses, the brilliant lights shocked and irritated his eyes. About 30 minutes after the landing, the acrid smell of sulfur permeated the air. The astonished prospector heard a loud hissing sound, just before a small door slid open on the side of the craft.

Whispered voices seemed to be coming from inside the UFO. Michalak didn't know what to make of the vessel. Assuming that it was some sort of experimental Russian machine, Michalak proceeded to ask the hushed voices if they spoke Russian. When he received no response, he used his impressive linguistic skills to ask the same question in English, German, French, Italian, and Ukrainian, only to be met with complete silence. The whispers had now stopped.

Michalak stepped closer to the craft. Close enough to look inside, he witnessed a maze of bright lights that appeared to be flashing in some sort of sequence on what looked like a control panel. Despite the voices he'd heard the craft was — at least as far as he could tell — entirely empty. Michalak — who would later claim that on closer inspection that the outside of the craft actually resembled highly polished glass devoid of seams or breaks — reached out to touch the surface of the craft, whereupon he was met with a surface so searing hot that the fingers on his glove instantly melted. Shocked, Michalak quickly removed his glove and was surprised to find that the craft seemed to react to his touch. The door quickly shut, and the craft shot straight up into the air. An exhaust port around 9 inches high and 6 inches wide blasted Michalak with scorching hot air that immediately ignited his clothing. He quickly scrambled to rip his jacket and shirt from his body and stamped out the flames, hoping to avoid a forest fire.

Within a few moments, he suddenly felt deathly ill. In an effort to mark the spot of his encounter, he placed pinecones and branches in an organized manner at the scene. After finally reaching his car, the nausea escalated, and Michalak had to pull over several times on the way

back to his hotel room. The closest hospital was a whole 4 hours from his current location. The pain was steadily getting worse. With a shaky voice, Michalak phoned his wife and son and asked them to meet him at the bus station in Winnipeg at 10:45 PM. From there, they drove to Misericordia Hospital.

Michalak was admitted for a staggering number of symptoms, including headache, diarrhea, weakness, dizziness, vomiting, hives, numbness, swelling of joints, eye irritation, and burns. He told the admitting physician that his burns were due to exhaust from an "aeroplane of sorts". Michalak struggled to eat, and lost an alarming 22 pounds during the following weeks. In addition to these physiological side effects of his encounter with the alien craft, his burns were highly abnormal in nature. They had a weird geometrical pattern that resembled grill marks, almost as if he had fallen chest-first onto a fully lit barbeque. Even stranger, after a visit to his local doctor on May 22nd, the burns — oddly enough — faded and then reappeared as if they were more recent than the date of the encounter at Falcon Lake.

Michalak also had atypical white blood cell levels and an increase in plasma cells. His lymphocyte level dropped from a normal 25% to just around 16%. Over 27 doctors

examined Michalak in an effort to explain his bizarre combination of medical ailments and came to one consensus: exposure to high levels of radiation. However — to everyone's surprise — on May 23, results came back from a test which showed no signs of radiation whatsoever. To further offset this disquieting onset of illnesses, Michalak also suffered from excessive body swelling. Sometimes, the swelling was so immense that his skin bloated straight out of his shirt cuffs. Doctors were just as baffled with this phenomenon and were at a loss at what to do. They attributed the swelling to severe allergies of some kind. To what, they didn't know.

Desperate for answers, a team of investigators eager for proof (or to debunk Michalak's story), flew him over Whiteshell Provincial Park in a helicopter, but he had trouble identifying the site from the air. Evidence of radiation in the general vicinity of where Michalak saw the crafts was found near a rock outcropping by a swampy area of the forest. Samples from the soil revealed clear signs of radiation. The radiation was of two varieties; a large portion was attributed to a natural uranium ore deposit in the area, but the other radiation source was much harder to pinpoint. This particular brand of radiation — radium 226 — was a mystery that analysts could not decipher. Its presence was unaccounted for, and enough for government officials to temporarily close off that area

of the park.

Nearly a year later — back at the scene of the encounter — new evidence was discovered. Two "W" shaped silver bars of around 4 and a half inches in length, and numerous smaller pieces of silver were found under lichen on the rock where Michalak witnessed the UFO. These bars were made of the highest quality silver, a purity so high that it was unaccounted for. A layer of quartz appeared to be embedded in the silver and was stuck to the bar with a strange, sticky, unidentified substance.

In August of 1968 — over a year after his run-in with the alien vessel — Michalak was still feeling unwell. Making the journey to a Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, he submitted to a series of physical tests. Later, when he requested his results — even though he had medical bills in his name and cards from the clinic — he received a suspicious denial letter, stating that he had never been there. After further petitioning and with signed consent, Michalak was able to get ahold of his medical records. The reports filed his illness away as neurodermatitis (an itchy skin disease) and simple syncope (a condition of sudden fainting).

To this day, the Canadian government remains quiet about

the investigative reports into Michalak's case, claiming that the information is available to the public at the NRC (National Research Council) in Ottawa. However, the majority of the interesting findings are blatantly missing from the reports, like the documented study of the burned items and the government's ultimate conclusion on the case. In any event, authorities were officially unable to provide evidence to either substantiate or entirely dismiss Michalak's claims.

Stephen Michalak's experience at Falcon Lake is classified as a CE-II, or a close encounter of the second level on two counts. These counts are as follows: physical traces of the encounter at the suspected area, and a witness with physiological side effects. Many aspects of the Falcon Lake Landing cannot be disproved with any certainty. In the mind of many UFO-enthusiasts, the evidence speaks for itself.

Chapter 6

The Pascagoula Incident, 1973

On the early night of October 11, 1973, 42-year old Charles Hickson and 19-year old Calvin Parker Jr. were out fishing by the Pascagoula River in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Out of nowhere, Hickson heard what he described as a weird buzzing sound coming from behind. When he turned around he was faced with a mysterious egg-shaped object with two big, bluish lights illuminating the front. It was estimated to be between 30 and 40 feet long, 8 to 10 feet tall. The UFO was hovering just above the water, right outside of the riverbank where the two men were standing.

After a few moments, a door opened, and three strange beings began floating towards the two men. The creatures were among some of the most unique ever reported by any contactee. Charles Hickson would later do his best to describe them:

"The head seemed to come directly to the shoulders, and it had something that resembled a nose…on a face. About where ears would be there was something similar to the nose, only, it was a little longer. And under the nose there was something like a slit for a mouth. And it was very wrinkled. It appeared to me to be something like an elephant skin…And in the area where the eyes should have been it was so wrinkled that I'm not even sure there was eyes."

He also reported that they had claw-like hands, and seemed to be just over 5 feet tall. Hickson later speculated that the creatures may have been robots, since he could not recall them having any visible or audible effects of breathing.

Even though Hickson and Parker were both terrified, they could not run. Inexplicably, they were both completely paralyzed. After hovering to where the stunned fishermen were standing, two of the beings grabbed Hickson while the third took care of Parker, who had fainted out of pure shock. They made their way to a bright lit room inside the hovering UFO, where Hickson was left floating as if laying on an invisible bed. Still paralyzed, he could not move any part of his body except his eyes. A strange device which looked like a big, almond shaped, robotic

eye went over his body as if it was scanning him. After the device retracted, Hickson was left alone for some time, presumably because the beings were then tending to Parker.

Eventually, Hickson was floated back onto the pier where Parker now stood, seemingly in shock. Then, the object rose straight into the sky and flew away quietly. Hickson later estimated that the whole extraordinary ordeal took no more than 20 minutes.

Hickson — while startled by the event — was a veteran of the Korean war, and handled it much better than the younger Calvin Parker Jr:

Charles Hickson: "The only thing I remember is that kid, Calvin, just standing there. I've never seen that sort of fear on a man's face as I saw on Calvin's. It took me a while to get him back to his senses, and the first thing I told him was, son, ain't nobody gonna believe this. Let's just keep this whole thing to ourselves."

After the incident, the two men sat in Hickson's car, trying to calm themselves and make sense of what just happened. They were afraid of public ridicule and were unsure of

whether or not they should tell someone. After some time spent regaining their focus, they began thinking about what could happen if the creatures had malevolent intentions. What if other people in the area were being abducted as well? What if this was happening elsewhere and was a threat to national security?

They decided to contact the Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. The sergeant who answered their phone call told them that the Air Force no longer (officially, anyway) investigated UFOs. They were instructed to contact their local sheriff department instead.

Hickson and Parker drove the long way to the Jackson County, Mississippi Sheriff's office, where they met Sheriff Fred Diamond and Captain Glenn Ryder, who conducted interviews with the two men. Sheriff Diamond was understandably skeptic of their story, and was looking for signs of hoaxing. Still, the men — in particular Parker — seemed genuinely frightened and disturbed, which made the Sheriff curious. He decided he would get to the bottom of it.

After being interviewed separately, Parker and Hickson were placed together in a room which — unbeknownst to them — was wired for sound. There, they talked privately.

Their conversations were recorded and a tape was produced, which the Sheriff suspected would prove their story to be a hoax. To his amazement, he discovered that the two men acted even more disturbed than when they were talking to the authorities one by one.

After their interviews at the sheriff's office, Hickson and Parker decided to keep completely quiet about the event. They went to work at the local shipyard the following morning. Stressed and sleep deprived, they went through their workday, without a mention of what they had experienced the previous night. A few hours after punching in, Sheriff Fred Diamond called the men at work, informing them that reporters were questioning him, trying to uncover more information about the extraordinary event.

Despite their best efforts to keep the story under wraps, the mainstream media was quickly alerted to their case. Much to the dismay of the two men, their story had spread across the globe in a matter of days. Their home town of Gautier, Mississippi suddenly became a hotbed of astronomers, reporters, UFO enthusiasts and independent researchers.

While already under much stress due to the overwhelming media attention, the two men also became concerned about

a possible radiation exposure during their encounter inside the flying object. They initially requested to be checked at the local hospital, but they lacked the necessary equipment. Instead, they ended up at Keesler Air Force Base, the very same facility which had turned them down when they first reported their experience with the ETs. There, they were thoroughly examined by several medical professionals who found no signs of radiation poisoning. Following the radiation test, the military intelligence chief of the base requested to meet with them. Both Parker and Hickson were interviewed by him while many others observed the proceedings. Later in the evening, an Air Force artist also made a sketch of one of the creatures, based on Hickson's recollections.

The Pascagoula incident eventually gained the attention of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), a UFO research group which consisted of many scientists, and put much emphasis on scientific field investigations. They sent James A. Harder, a University of California engineering professor, to investigate the case. He teamed up with the famed Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who represented the U.S. Air Force, and together they interviewed Hickson and Parker extensively.

Harder attempted to perform regressive hypnosis on

Charles Hickson, but the session was interrupted as he became too terrified to continue. Additionally, both Hickson and Parker took polygraph tests, which they passed. After ending their investigation, both Harder and Hynek concluded that both of the contactees were telling the truth.

J. Allen Hynek later stated in an interview:

*"I went down to Pascagoula completely negative, but I worked with those men for quite a while. I listened to tapes that had been taken when they didn't know they were being taped. I saw how Charlie behaved under hypnosis, and finally, the lie detector test. All of those things convinced me that he was not making it up. They had had **an** experience, period."*

According to an old article in the MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) journal, a sonic boom was heard across the mid-western and eastern part of the United States, an hour or so before the contact at Pascagoula. Additionally, a large number of UFO sightings occurred in the following days and weeks after this boom.

In the decades that followed, new information emerged,

which seemed to validate Parker and Hickson's story. In 2001, retired navy chief petty officer Mike Cataldo, revealed that he and his crew mates Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna observed a UFO around the Pascagoula area the same night as the Hickson & Parker contact. He described it as *"a large tambourine with small flashing lights"*. The UFO reportedly crossed the freeway before it hovered over a tree line and disappeared from sight.

"Puddin" Broadus, a local Pascagoula detective, also reported seeing something unusual fly through the air that night. He allegedly witnessed a flash of greenish light, which was also seen by a man named Larry Booth, who was operating a service station nearby.

The Pascagoula incident is briefly mentioned in the channelled work "The Law of One", also known as "The Ra Material". According to this material (supposedly relayed by highly evolved ETs), the beings who contacted Hickson and Parker were from the Sirius star system. They were peaceful, vegetation-like lifeforms which evolved from something similar to a tree (which would explain their unusual appearance and lack of noticeable breathing).

It further states that the beings were recording the life

experience of Charlie Hickson in order to learn, taking a special interest in his time during the Korean war. These entities were allegedly mostly existing in a near meditative state, and a life of constant movement (and aggressive behaviour) such as ours were foreign to them. Consequently, to them, Hickson's mind became a valuable subject of contemplation. It also mentions that he agreed, during his pre-incarnate or between-lives state, to be available for such a service.

The aftermath of the extraordinary event would influence the men in different ways.

In the years following the incident, Calvin Parker Jr. mostly avoided the public eye. He was rather negatively affected by what happened, and frequently struggled with sleep deprivation and anxiety. At one point he was even hospitalized due to an emotional breakdown.

Hickson, while cautious at first, eventually learned to accept his role in the spotlight. He initially appeared on television shows like “The Tonight Show” with Johnny Carson and “The Dick Cavett Show”. Later, he went on to co-author a book with William Mendez about his experience, titled “UFO Contact at Pascagoula”. He also directed a documentary called “In Contact”, and did

numerous conferences and radio interviews. As he looked back on the encounter later in his life, Hickson felt that the beings who took him aboard that vessel that fateful night were actually benevolent, and felt that spreading the message of interplanetary intelligence and possible future cooperation between races was important. As a result of his encounter, Hickson also started advocating for environmental sustainability and ending all conflict between human beings.

On September 9, 2011, Charles Hickson passed away at the age of 80. His story is, to this day, one of the most intriguing alien contact cases of modern times. Despite ridicule and frequent stress due to the large attention, Hickson always stood by his word. His fascinating story remained the same until the day he died.

Chapter 7

The Medicine Bow Encounter, 1974

On October 25, 1974, Carl Higdon — an oil driller, husband, and father of four — packed the company pickup truck and headed out to Medicine Bow National Forest in search of food for his family. It was during the recession, and many families were struggling to put food on the table. Higdon invested in a brand new Magnum rifle, complete with powerful 7-millimeter bullets, and planned to scout out some elk to keep his loved ones fed through the winter. Higdon ran into an old friend on the way into the woods, who told him of an area where he'd seen several large elk. Higdon followed his friend's advice and made his way to the northern section of the park.

He didn't have to wait long before five massive elk strolled into his range. The hunter took aim with his scope and shot. He waited for the painful recoil, the sound of the bullet detonation, but was instead met with an inexplicable silence. There was no kickback, no snick of the bullet leaving the gun, but Higdon was able to watch the bullet's

trajectory. The bullet moved at a snail's pace, as if it was being manipulated by some unknown force. The bullet made it about 50 feet before it froze and dropped to the snowy ground, not even remotely close to hitting the herd of elk.

Higdon stood, puzzled and disturbed by his gun's apparent malfunction; unable to do more than stare at the bullet nestled in the snow. After a few moments, he recovered the bullet and placed it in a canvas pocket. A weird tingling sensation traveled up his body at the touch of the bullet. A snap of a tree branch jolted him back to reality. Higdon lifted his gaze in the direction of the sound and was faced with a humanoid creature unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

Standing over 6 feet tall, dressed in what looked like a black jumpsuit with a wide belt and what appeared to be a harness that crisscrossed over its chest, the creature looked as if he was wearing some kind of uniform. The belt was emblazoned with a six-pointed star and a yellow emblem that Higdon couldn't identify. The strange humanoid terrified the hunter. Its skin was yellow cast, its faced disappeared straight into its neck without any definition — no chin, no jaw. Straw-like hair stood straight up on the top of its head, and its eyebrows were

nonexistent. The being stood bowlegged but tall and, instead of hands where its arms ended, there were pointed appendages that closely resembled a tool like a rod or drill. In a later instance of hypnotic memory regression, Higdon remembered that the humanoid creature had six teeth, three up top and three on the bottom. Higdon also recalled that the creature was a male, and was named "Ausso One".

Ausso One apparently spoke English, though its communications may have been telepathic in nature. He asked if Higdon was hungry, since he was sneaking up on elk in the forest. Evidence from hypnosis showed a lengthier conversation between Ausso and Higdon where he asked if Higdon would like to go with him, to which Higdon replied by shrugging his shoulders. Higdon admitted that he was hungry and Ausso told him of some pills he had, and that if he ate one he wouldn't have to eat for about four days. Ausso proceeded to throw Higdon a container filled with four of these strange pills. In an unprecedented move, Higdon swallowed the pill almost immediately. The man was known to abhor pills and even refused medications as common as aspirin.

Ausso gestured toward Higdon and, at this point, Higdon noticed a transparent box-like craft that floated above the ground. In the blink of an eye, Higdon was transported into

what he assumed was the craft he'd seen near Ausso. Higdon found himself encased in a small area and strapped down to a chair. Bands were cinched tight around his arm and a helmet with cords that plugged into the top —and lead somewhere he couldn't see — was strapped to his head. Perpendicular to his newfound prison, a console with levers of various sizes was visible.

From a mirror lodged close to his head, Higdon was able to see the five elk he'd been hunting herded together in some sort of cage; they did not move. Two other humanoid creatures like Ausso were also inside the craft. As they rose higher into the air, Higdon spotted what he thought was Earth far beneath him. Ausso informed him that they were flying to his home planet, which was located 163,000 light years from Earth. Seconds later, they had arrived. With a lift of his hand, Ausso transported Higdon from the craft onto a central square.

A tall, metallic cityscape like a modern Seattle skyline flooded his view. Each skyscraper-style building radiated with the light from a sun that was far more powerful than he'd ever felt on Earth. The staggering brightness automatically made his eyes burn and water; he reached up to shade his eyes from the light. A gigantic tower of 90 feet in height with a rotating, domed light system stood

directly in front of Higdon. The whirring of the building sounded like an electric razor.

Higdon was alarmed to find five humans casually chatting by the tower. Higdon described the human as a gray-haired 40-50-year old male, a brunette girl of 10 or 11, a blonde girl between 13 and 14, and a couple that appeared to be between 17 and 18. They were all wearing normal, Earth-like clothing.

Ausso One pointed again, and suddenly Higdon was inside a box-like chamber which he felt may have been an elevator. In an instant, Higdon was in a new room, propped up on a shelf-like device with something that resembled a shield that popped out of the wall. After about four minutes, the shield receded and Ausso told Higdon that "he was not what they needed". Ausso pulled a lever and — just like that — Higdon was teleported away from the peculiar environment.

He landed hard on a 9-foot high decline in Medicine Bow Park. Unable to get his bearings, Higdon tripped over a rock and plummeted down the slope, whacking his head, neck, and shoulders. Two and a half hours had elapsed since he met the strange being called Ausso One. Disoriented, scared, and perplexed by what transpired,

Higdon searched frantically for his truck, but it was not where he left it. Higdon found the pickup three miles from where he'd parked it in an inexplicable condition. The pickup was now situated in a mud-filled sinkhole. Unable to free the truck, Higdon used his CB radio to call the local Sheriff's office. The police got to the scene at around midnight and were stunned by what they found. There were no tracks leading up to the hole. Rather, it looked as though the vehicle had been picked up and dropped from above. Meanwhile, Higdon was inconsolable and frantic, shouting, "They took my elk" repeatedly.

He was eventually admitted into Carbon County Memorial Hospital in Rawlings, New York at 2:30 AM on October 26, 1974. Higdon had trouble recognizing his wife, but was not listed as having a concussion. In fact, other than bloodshot eyes that watered nonstop, he seemed to be in better health than he'd ever been. Tests showed that his vitamin levels were elevated, the kidney stones he'd had prior to the incident had miraculously vanished, and all scarring on his lungs from a bout of tuberculosis was completely gone.

Other notable evidence was eyewitness accounts by Higdon's wife and two other people, who saw red-green

flashing lights in the general vicinity of where Higdon encountered Ausso One. The most compelling evidence, however, was of the bullet that never met its target. The bullet was deformed in a way that was impossible to decipher. The lug was missing entirely and the jacket was inversed, like it had been flipped inside out in a single motion. A specialist who had examined the bullet had never seen anything like it, and stated that it would have taken tremendous force to morph the bullet into that position.

On November 2, 1974, Higdon was subjected to four hours of interviews, as well as several attempts at hypnosis which were unsuccessful. Two weeks later, on November 17th, the memory regression finally succeeded. Higdon was able to remember extensive conversations with Ausso One, predominantly about the reason for visiting Earth. Ausso confessed that the sun's rays on his planet had become so strong that several species of animals had died out. This was also the reason for the black body suits, he said, which protected the ETs from the scorching rays of their star.

Ausso's people were reportedly on Earth to look for alternative food sources, as well as securing individuals from various species of animals for "breeding purposes"

back on their planet. Higdon speculated that the humans he saw on the alien planet may also have been part of some sort of breeding initiative, as all of them looked to be young and fertile. This would also explain why he was told that he "was not what they needed", after he appeared to be scanned by the strange shield-like contraption. Higdon had in fact undergone a vasectomy a few years prior to his unexpected trip to the alien world.

For weeks after the incident, Higdon was convinced that a bright green light was stalking him. Hyper paranoid and hysterical, Higdon maintained that the ETs were checking up on him.

In September of 1978, Higdon took a PSE: psychological stress evaluation through the LAPD under a psychiatrist named Dr. Greenburg. The results of the polygraph were crystal clear, Higdon was — at least in his own mind — telling the truth.

Chapter 8

The Allagash Abductions, 1976

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway is an area in Maine, a state in the New England region of the United States of America. It is a large, beautiful territory of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams going through the middle of northern Maine's thick forests. It was in this area that four men's quiet fishing trip turned into a mind-boggling, paranormal event. An event which would haunt their dreams and distorted memories in the years which followed.

In late August of 1976, twin brothers Jim and Jack Weiner, together with their friends Charlie Foltz and Chuck Rak, went on vacation to Allagash. All of the four men were former art students who had met each other at the Massachusetts College of Art.

They started their vacation on August 20, and spent the next several days hiking and canoeing along the waterway, enjoying each other's company and the peaceful landscape

which surrounded them. On the evening of August 26, they reached an area known as Eagle Lake, and proceeded to set up camp. They got out their fishing rods and tried their luck by the bank, but nothing bit. They agreed to relocate to the middle of the lake for some night fishing, as it was quickly getting dark. Before heading out onto the water they made a large bonfire, in order to highlight their campsite so that they easily could find their way back.

A short while after they had settled the canoe and began fishing, Chuck Rak felt as though he was being intently watched. He turned around, and observed a massive, multi-colored sphere of light emerging above the southeastern tree line, approximately 200 yards away from the canoe. The object was completely soundless while moving. Parts of it would change color in a *"plasmatic motion"* as it moved. First red to green, then from green to a light yellow. According to the men's estimations, it was about 80 feet in diameter.

After being stunned for a second, Chuck yelled for the others to turn around. Startled but intrigued, Charlie Foltz took out his flashlight and used it to signal an "SOS" in the direction of the mysterious object. The sphere instantly changed direction, and started moving slowly towards the four waterborne men. As it approached, the UFO started

emitting a hollow beam of light. As the beam hit the water surface near them, the men panicked and began paddling frantically to get away. While adrenalin pumped through their veins, they focused all their attention on their bonfire in the distance, but it was too late. The beam of light fully enveloped the four friends and their canoe.

The next thing they knew, they were all standing by the campsite at the shore, looking at the illuminated object now rising into the sky, about 50 to 70 yards away from them. The sphere then shot into the far distance in the blink of an eye, still completely silent. The men simply stood there for a while, watching the night sky, unable to speak. The intense panic which they had felt in their previously remembered moments was now gone. Confused, they wondered: Had they "blacked out" due to the effects of the adrenalin rush, and carried themselves to the shore?

Their minds were also inexplicably in a numb, dreamy state, as if they had just woken up from a deep level of anesthesia. As they were starting to regain their normal senses they noticed that the large bonfire — which was burning brightly just minutes ago — was now nothing more than hot ashes and red coal. They had placed large logs in the fire so that it would burn for several hours yet — to their knowledge — they had been away for no more

than 20 minutes. This would remain a mystery for the four men, as they ended their vacation and returned home to their newly formed careers. Eventually, however, the UFO encounter would be shown to affect them on a subconscious level. What at first seemed to "merely" have been a close-up sighting would increasingly be revealed as something much more bizarre.

Several years after the extraordinary event, Jim Weiner received a head injury which resulted in temporal lobe epilepsy, a neurological condition which often includes sensory changes and disturbances of memory. During a checkup, his doctors asked him if he had any noteworthy experiences which may have been related to his condition. Jim proceeded to tell the doctors about him and his friends' close encounter with the mysterious glowing sphere and the feeling of missing time, as well as the continued, intense nightmares which had haunted everyone in the group ever since. His brother, Jack Weiner, was the first to have these vivid dreams.

During these nightmares, they saw strange beings with large heads and long necks. The descriptions of the entities' faces are reminiscent of the classic "Grey alien" variant. They had very large, lidless eyes which had a slight glow to them, and which seemed to be covered by a

thin metallic surface. Their hands were said to be insect-like, with only four fingers on each. They had very small nostrils and simple slits for mouths. Jack Weiner saw flashes of the beings examining his arm, while his friends were seated nearby, seemingly paralyzed.

The doctors suspected that Jim and his group might have been involved in an alien abduction, and advised him to contact a UFO researcher. In 1988, Jim went to a UFO conference hosted by the author and researcher Raymond Fowler. After the conference, Jim met with Fowler and told him everything about the paranormal incident. Fowler was highly intrigued, noting that a multiple-witness case like this was quite rare, and decided to help Jim and his friends find some answers.

In January of 1989, he started a formal investigation together with MUFON investigator and solar physicist, David Webb, and MUFON consultant and professional hypnotist, Anthony Constantino. Together, they studied the men and their accounts during a period of two years. It started with several, detailed psychiatric tests and examinations, which resulted in all of the men being deemed mentally stable. In addition, all of them took lie detector tests, which they all passed. Finally, they underwent a series of regressive hypnosis sessions

conducted by Constantino. During these sessions, which Constantino described as "*The most intense experience I've had as a hypnotist"*, a great deal of new information came to light.

During the hypnosis all of the witnesses revealed that they had been transferred into the illuminated sphere by the hollow beam of light which enveloped them. Once onboard, the strange creatures from their dreams had them under some sort of mind control, which rendered them in a kind of tranquilized state. All of them were made to undress before they were examined one by one on a silvery table.

The beings then used several hand-held and machine-like instruments to analyze the men. During the examination, they apparently took samples of different bodily fluids such as blood, urine and sperm, as well as skin scrapings. After the tests concluded, the men were made to put on their clothes again, before lining up near a round portal in another section of the UFO. They were then levitated back onto the canoe below, and accurately placed in each of the positions which they were sitting in prior to the abduction. When the hypnosis sessions were concluded, it was discovered that all of the four men's recollections of the event were consistent with each other.

In 1993, Raymond Fowler stated in an article:

"During the course of the investigation we conducted witness background checks, examined medical records and diaries, cross-checked witness testimony, coordinated witness psychological profile tests, correlated witness accounts with other reports and conducted fifteen hypnosis sessions over a period of 14 months. The final 10-volume report numbered over 700 pages.

...The investigation concluded that the moral character of the witnesses, the graphic reliving of their experiences under hypnosis and the extraordinary correlations between their experience and that of others, provided overwhelming evidence that their experiences were objective in nature. Such evidence combined with typical physical effects on the witnesses' bodies prompted me to evaluate this case in the great significance category."

Chapter 9

The Dechmont Woods Encounter, 1979

On a cool November morning, Robert Taylor, a 61-year-old forester from West Lothian, Scotland, hopped in his work truck with his dog — an energetic, red setter — and made his way to Dechmont Law. An employee of the Livingston Development Corporation, Taylor was very familiar with the area. He left his house at around 10:30 AM on November 5, 1979 to double check the progress on some saplings for the company. The saplings were situated a short way into a secluded forest off the M8 Motorway. When Robert Taylor got in his truck that morning for routine-work maintenance with his dog, never in a million light years could he have guessed that his life would be forever altered. The story of what happened that morning has perplexed countless UFO enthusiasts for decades.

Taylor parked his pickup truck at the head of the forest trail and set off on foot together with his canine friend. After walking for a while, he made it to a clearing where he stopped dead in his tracks. There, hovering in mid-air,

was a large, spherical object about 20 feet across and 12 feet tall. The craft appeared abrasive and dark, like black sandpaper. It floated in absolute silence, suspended, as if frozen in position. Taylor gaped at the object, taking in the small, round windows that seemed to circle above a protruding ring that looked like the rim of a hat. As he watched, the object flickered in color, pieces fading to near transparency and then filling back in, as if the craft was attempting to enter some sort of invisibility mode.

Awe-struck by the astonishing sight in front of him, Taylor recoiled from the craft as two smaller sphere-like objects with metal spikes that reminded him of old Navy mines burst from the larger vessel. The spiked spheres began to roll towards him, leaving distinct impressions in the soil. Taylor was frozen in absolute shock at the bizarre scene, so startled that he didn't have time to react as the two spheres latched on to his pant legs. The spherical objects pulled Taylor towards the larger craft with a force so powerful that his heels scraped and tore into the ground. The spheres then released toxic, acrid smelling fumes that made him gag, and which invaded his senses to the point that he lost consciousness.

The next thing he knew, Taylor woke up face down on the grass and to the sound of his dog barking in a panicked

state, racing frantically around the clearing. Taylor tried to speak in an effort to calm his distraught dog, but found that his voice was gone. Hoping to offer his dog physical comfort, Taylor attempted to stand, but found that he had lost all semblance of physical strength. He crawled toward his pickup truck as he gradually regained his energy, before he eventually managed to pick himself up and get in the driver's seat.

When Taylor reached his truck — in an unfortunate and unexpected twist of fate — he was still disoriented, and drove it into a bank of wet mud. Unable to dislodge the pickup, Taylor — covered in mud and looking worse for wear — made the long journey home on foot. When Taylor came to the door, his wife was disturbed by his appearance; she thought he had been assaulted.

Still reeling from his life-altering encounter, Taylor was uncertain about calling the police and instead dialed his job supervisor, Malcolm Drummond. Taylor recounted his story from the sudsy water of his bathtub. Malcolm Drummond was convinced by his colleague's passionate tale and the two scrapes that he showed him as evidence. He decided to follow him to the location in the Dechmont Woods to investigate the scene of this extraordinary event. Urged on by his wife, Taylor phoned the police, who

accompanied them.

At the site, the soil was rife with strange markings that could not be explained by any typical machinery. The markings were checked against all the forestry vehicles that would have been exposed to the area, which resulted in no matches being found. The tears found on Taylor's pants were also impossible to identify. The fabric had clearly been pierced by an object that effectively pulled upward, as if lifting Taylor off the ground.

Further investigations revealed more mysteries which sparked even more questions that failed to be answered. Police sifted through reports from both the military and civilian flight logs and were shocked to find that not a single aircraft had flown over the area on the morning of November 5, 1979. Furthermore, no person in the area had reported spotting the strange craft leaving the area. All in all, there were no signs that the vessel had ever left the location, at least, not visually.

A thorough inspection of the clearing where Taylor saw the spherical craft yielded additional evidence. There were three distinct imprints that validated Taylor's story. The first of these markings were two parallel tracks that looked like a ladder. Each track was 8 feet long and 8 feet

apart from the other track. The second was a bizarre scattering of some 40 small holes that circled the tracks. These holes appeared to be about 4 inches across. Whether or not these holes matched the tearing on Taylor's clothing, or if they could have been from the smaller spherical objects, has either never been investigated or the findings have mysteriously disappeared from public sources.

The final piece of evidence at the scene was a massive indentation in the soil that suggested that a something weighing several tons had rested on the ground there. An alternative explanation as to what could have made this enormous imprint has yet to be found.

UFO investigators have mapped out a timeline of the events in Dechmont forest, estimating that Robert Taylor was knocked unconscious for nearly 20 minutes. What occurred in that time span, however, remains a mystery to this day. When Taylor woke, the large craft and its smaller counterparts had all vanished.

No medical evidence is available to corroborate Taylor's extraordinary story. While Robert Taylor did attempt to go to the hospital with his wife, the wait was so long, and they were given the runaround so many times, that they

ended up leaving without seeing a doctor.

To this day, the Dechmont Woods case remains open and unsolved.

Chapter 10

The Rendlesham Forest Incident, 1980

Like the United States has the Roswell Incident, the British have their own famous UFO encounter. Known as "Britain's Roswell", the Rendlesham Forest Incident has been in the media from time to time since the 1980s. Rendlesham Forest is located just east of Ipswich in Suffolk, England. To the west of the 5.8-mile wide pine forest was the Royal Air Force (RAF) base Woodbridge while the RAF Bentwaters was situated along the northern and eastern area of Rendlesham. The United States Air Force was the two bases at the time, under Wing Commander Colonel Gordon E. Williams. US Air Force lieutenant colonel Charles I. Halt was the deputy commander of the US Airbase in Suffolk at the time. The base commander was Colonel Ted Conrad.

The extraordinary series of events started on December 26, 1980 when Staff Sergeant Bud Steffens and Airman First Class John Burroughs, security personnel of the US Air Force, were stationed at the east gate of the RAF base

in Woodbridge. Just past midnight, James 'Jim' Penniston was informed by Steffens of odd illuminations in the sky just above the Rendlesham Forest. Penniston got confirmation from radar operators in Bentwaters about the presence of an object that flew 60 miles in just two or three seconds. Equivalent to thousands of miles per hour. The lightning-fast UFO then came back, stopped near a water tower and proceeded to hover over the forest. Penniston remembered thinking that whatever the object was, it was clearly under intelligent control.

The lights then slowly descended into the forest. Thinking that an aircraft crash landed, three military personnel were deployed to investigate the scene. Sgt. Steffens later confirmed that the craft *"didn't crash… it landed."* The three who responded were Penniston, John Burroughs, and an airman named Edward N. Cabansag. While traversing the east gate road on their way to the site of the presumed crash, they could see the different-colored lights moving in the woods before settling in a position amongst the trees.

The three men slumped onto the ground for cover as it dawned on them that there was no plane to be found. It was still dark at the time, but the forest was somehow lit up. The animals at a nearby farm went crazy and were making a lot of noise, obviously sensing something was

amiss. The men got up and continued their approach. They climbed the fence separating the forest and the open field and walked toward the source of the white light, which was now located somewhere near the farmer's house. As they got nearer, their radios started acting up, so Cabansag was told to find an area where he could use the radio to relay transmissions back to the control center. While Cabansag split from the group, Penniston and Burroughs continued walking towards the strange craft.

The men didn't find any debris from any wreckage. There was no fire or any trace that something crash landed in the forest. What they found was, as described by Penniston after the incident, *"a craft of unknown origin"*. Up close, he saw blue and yellow lights and hieroglyphic-like characters on the metallic exterior of the object which was about 9 feet tall and 9 feet wide. A red pulsing light could be seen on its top. Penniston further relayed that the craft had no landing gear and that he was able to come close enough to touch the craft which he described as black, smooth, opaque, and warm. He claimed he had a camera with him and that he used all 36 shots. Penniston later detailed in the 2014 book *Encounter in Rendlesham Forest* that what he saw *"was not an aircraft which could have been manufactured in 1980 or even now"*.

45 minutes into their investigation, the lights on the craft became brighter. The men were taken aback. The craft then silently floated off the ground, deftly made its way through the trees, and darted away at an "impossible" speed. Just like that, the UFO was gone. The men went back to base to report their experience and to submit evidence. Among the evidence was Penniston's logbook where he wrote details about the encounter and the craft. The photos from two rolls of films were overexposed, however.

Around 4 in the morning of the day of the encounter, the local police arrived. They didn't see any strange lights. All they saw were the lights coming from the Orford Ness lighthouse.

The investigation of the scene — conducted on the morning of December 26 by a group that included Captain Mike Verrano and Master Sergeant Ray Gulyas — revealed scorch marks and broken branches on the trees while a perfect triangle-shaped impression was found where the craft reportedly landed. Additionally, the radiation level on the site was *"significantly higher than the average background",* according to the scientists from the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The police were again asked to investigate, but dismissed the indentations as something animals might have done. A photo of the

triangular indentation has become one of the most striking pieces of evidence which suggests that alien craft have actually landed on Earth's surface.

This apparent landing, however, would prove to only be the first in a series of extraordinary events which would take place in the area in a span of three days. Two nights after the authorities had finished up examining the initial landing, another group of military personnel witnessed an even more astonishing event. Sergeant Adrian Bustinza and Larry Warren were among a group of military men sent to investigate the new sighting. When they reached the site, Warren saw an object on the ground which was surrounded by disaster-preparedness officers equipped with Geiger counters.

Warren recalled that a small red light appeared from the object and stopped around 20 feet from the ground. Then, the glow of the red orb quickly intensified and suddenly exploded outwards in a harmless burst of light. Another witness, Sergeant Monroe Nevels — a Disaster Preparedness Technician who worked at the scene that night — saw a total of three lights, with the largest one acting like the leader or command vessel. According to him, the lights seemed to be vessels that flew independently of each other.

When the men finally gathered their wits after witnessing the amazing spectacle involving the lights, they saw a strange craft which had landed nearby. As far as the men could tell, there were no windows or markings on this craft. Warren and Bustinza gave way as Wing Commander Williams advanced towards the unknown object. Warren looked on as Williams had a silent stand-off with a being from within the craft. He described the strange creature as wearing bright clothing adorned with devices, standing around 4 feet tall with a child-like body. He could also make out its very large, black eyes staring at the Wing Commander.

The deputy commander Charles I. Halt was also present when the second encounter occurred. He was ready this time, though. He brought along a dictation device to record what they were doing and saying during the second appearance of the sky lights. He taped a total of 18 minutes of audio recordings. Halt was caught on record saying, *"Okay, we're looking at the thing; were probably about two to three hundred yards away. It looks like an eye winking at you... and the flash is so bright to the star scope that it almost burns your eye."*

Before the men could fully take in the amazing experience

with the alien being, the craft started hovering a bit and then went straight up in the air before making a sharp 45 degree turn. All that was left was a cold draft and a lot of bewildered minds. Bustinza, in an interview with the late UFO researcher Georgina Bruni, said that the strange craft was "*going in and out through the trees and at one stage it was hovering.”*

Some skeptics argue that the objects seen over Rendlesham could have been any of the following: a downed aircraft, a helicopter carrying a replica of the Apollo capsule, light coming from the Orford Ness lighthouse (as claimed by the official statement released by the British government), a secret military test, or even a prank by the airmen at the nearby base. Some astronomers claim that the lights were in fact natural debris from space burning up and becoming a fireball as it entered the Earth’s atmosphere somewhere over southern England. These theories, however, leave a lot to be desired. They fail to account for the moving orbs of light, the perfectly triangular indentation on the ground and — the most striking event of all — the face to face contact with an apparent extraterrestrial.

The events that transpired in 1980 continues to baffle and amaze people even today. Interestingly, reports of

sightings in the area did not end after those incredible nights in the 80s. In fact, as recent as in early 2015, a person who was out walking a dog saw a series of inexplicable orbs of light hovering over the Rendlesham Forest. If there was ever any investigation into these new sightings, however, is unknown.

A man by the name of Nick Pope worked for the Ministry of Defence from 1985 to 2006. During his time with the government, Pope had firsthand information regarding numerous UFO investigations. He was tasked with investigating the sightings and figuring out if they posed a threat to the country. The British government shut down his department, forcing him to resign. Still, that did not deter Pope from becoming a freelance journalist, dealing mostly with UFOs and other mysterious events which went silently by most of the mainstream media. Though he wasn't with the MoD when the encounters happened, he insists that an actual UFO landed in the forest and hat they were not just some vague lights in the sky.

Charles I. Halt, now 75 years old, has come up with new evidence of the UFO landing. According to written statements he gathered from the radar operators based at the time at the Bentwaters headquarters and at the neighboring Wattisham Airfield, there were indeed strange

objects flying within the vicinity, which they reportedly tracked for some time. Halt further expressed that this new evidence only came to light now because many of the witnesses waited until they retired before talking about their experiences, for fear of getting punished by their superiors. To this day, Penniston (who along with Burroughs suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the years following the event) and a host of other witnesses, insist that a UFO did indeed land within the Rendlesham Forest.

Chapter 11

UFO Attack On the Knowles Family, 1988

There are certain places in the United States where UFO sightings occur more frequently than elsewhere. The rather arid locations in particular — like in certain areas of California and Arizona — seem to be hotbeds of UFO activity. Do the ETs prefer to operate away from most of humanity? Or perhaps the more vacant terrain simply makes it easier to spot them, resulting in more reports of sightings? Whatever the case may be, vast, dry landscapes often go hand in hand with plentiful observations of mysterious flying objects. This is also the case in some other parts of the world, such as the great Outback "Down Under".

In 1988, an Australian family, the Knowles, were driving on their way to meet with family in Melbourne. Sean Knowles, who was driving the car, was together with his two brothers Patrick and Wayne, their mother Faye, and their two family dogs. They were riding along the road of Nullarbor Plain, a large desert area in the southern part of Australia when, suddenly, strange things started happening.

Around 1.30 AM, the music from the family's car speakers became distorted, before the radio finally malfunctioned completely. Around 15 minutes later, the family could see a large light approaching from a distance. At first, they simply assumed it was a large truck with a busted headlight. As it came closer and closer, it became apparent that there was indeed a truck moving towards them. To their surprise, however, the single, bright light they observed from a distance was actually situated *above* the vehicle. At this point it was clear that the truck was driving in a wild manner, at an immense speed and at the wrong side of the road!

A violent collision was clearly imminent. Sean, out of pure reflex, managed to quickly turn the car out of the way, and the truck, followed by the hovering ball of light, barely missed their trajectory. He slowed down the car as the stunned family tried to make sense of the incident. Before they could calm their nerves, a station wagon went past them, also accompanied by the bright ball of light overhead. At this point they were puzzled, and wanted answers. Sean turned the car around and started chasing the mysterious luminescence. While they were beginning to gain on the car and the light, the mother, Faye, had a gut feeling that something was amiss. She pleaded for Sean to

disengage, and so he did. He promptly did a U-turn, and they were on their way to Melbourne once again. They all agreed that they would report the incident to the authorities at the next available phone station. However, as you might suspect, the story didn't end there.

Just moments after turning the car around, Sean watched in the rear view mirror as the ball of light now headed towards *them* at a blazing speed. Everyone in the car were gripped by fear, and screamed and pleaded to Sean to get out of there. He increased the speed, but to no avail. Suddenly, a loud thump could be heard from above. Something heavy apparently landed on top of the roof, as the vehicle bounced slightly downwards from the resulting pressure. Then, the car started slowly elevating in the air. The family panicked in fear for their lives and the dogs both went nuts, but there was nowhere for them to run. They were all trapped.

The object was now levitating the car completely off the ground, propelling them forward at around 120 miles per hour. Faye, who was sitting in the backseat, decided to roll up her window and then desperately tried to dislodge the object. To her great surprise, instead of a metallic feel, her hand was met with a warm and spongy substance. She immediately pulled back her arm while screaming

hysterically. Her hand was now red, swollen and cold. It was also covered in a fine, powdery, dark dust. Seconds later, this same dust entered through the open window on the right side of the front of the car, and the entire family was quickly covered with it. It reportedly carried a terrible smell reminiscent of decomposing flesh.

Then, a high pitched sound went through the vehicle, causing the dogs to furiously bark. The family's fearful screams now became distorted, as if they were emitting sounds in slow motion. In addition, all of the hairs on their bodies stood straight up into the air.

Patrick, the oldest son, later told reporters: *"I felt like my brain was being sucked out…"*

Out of nowhere, the car was dropped back onto the pavement so abruptly that one of the tires punctured from the impact. Sean regained control of the car and hastily pulled to the side of the road. The family then scrambled out of the car and took cover in some nearby bushes. The glowing object, which was reportedly shaped like *"an egg in a cup"*, hovered around the area for a while. The horrified family felt that it was searching for them. Finally, however, it took off at a great velocity and disappeared from view. To be safe, they decided to hide for around 30

minutes before returning to the road. They quickly changed the flat tire and raced towards the nearest sign of civilization, the Mundrabilla Roadhouse, a service station.

Much to their relief, the family managed to get there without running into the strange object again. They were greeted by several truck drivers, some of whom had witnessed a mysterious, bright light in the sky nearby. An attendant at the station later told reporters that the family were visibly wound up and frightened when they arrived. He also inspected their vehicle and *"noticed an odour which smelled similar to hot insulation"*. In addition, Faye's hand was still swollen, and the two dogs were cowering in the car and looked to be shedding clumps of hair.

After spending some time recovering at the Roadhouse, they decided to report the extraordinary and terrifying event to the local police. The officers who investigated the car said that the vehicle was indeed dented, as if something had landed on it, and that it was covered in an ash-like substance.

This substance was later collected by the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) and sent to a NASA-affiliated laboratory in California, U.S. for analysis.

There, Dr. Richard Haines studied the material. Some of the dust in the car had previously been analyzed by other experts, who concluded that at least parts of it came from the interior of a burnt out brake lining, a report which debunkers gladly accepted. Haines' closer inspection, however, resulted in a different conclusion.

The tests showed signs of oxygen, carbon, silicon, potassium, sodium chloride and strangely, a trace of astatine. Astatine is a very rare radioactive chemical element which is usually only produced via synthetic methods. Furthermore, this element should have decayed rapidly under normal circumstances, yet — when magnified — some of the particles seemed to exhibit signs of radiation.

The aftermath of the sensational event would prove to be hard for the Knowles family. They decided to leave their former home in the city of Perth, stating that most of their friends were completely taken aback by their story, thinking they had become mentally ill. Most of the locals had also been informed of their supposed meeting with alien intelligence, and many were not hesitant to ridicule them.

The Knowles also claimed that they were duped by a man

named Wes Johnstone from a company named "Multi-Level Advertising", who promised to make them rich by having them appear at various promotional events. He took their car, claiming it would serve as a marketing piece, but simply auctioned it off later to a private buyer for $7000. The family said they never saw a penny from it, and claimed that, in the end, the incident actually cost them around $18.000 altogether.

Being almost laughed out of their homes, grossly swindled by a con-artist and living under the constant scrutiny of skeptics, the Knowles were fed up with the whole situation. They receded back to their familiar, everyday lives and put the whole startling experience behind them.

Chapter 12

Peter Khoury's Intimate Encounter, 1992

Since the first reports about the paranormal phenomena were made available, a great deal of alien contact and abduction cases have been shown to have a sexual element to them. In most cases it involves some sort of professional, clinical procedure to retrieve seminal fluids from men and eggs from women. In some other incidents, however, there are reports of more intimate relationships between the humans and the unknown beings. These accounts are often highly controversial, and much more prone to ridicule than the more common reports. Though most respectable UFO researchers may want to leave such stories alone, there is one case in particular which, when investigated further, showed some intriguing and perplexing results. This is the story of the Australian Peter

Khoury's very personal encounter.

Peter Khoury was born in Lebanon in 1964, and moved to Australia in 1973 with his family. At school in 1981, he met his future wife, Vivian, who he married in 1990. He lived a seemingly normal life in the city of Sydney, working in the building industry and owning his own cement distribution company.

Already before the main event of this story took place, Khoury had experienced strange phenomena which altered his view of existence. In February of 1988, he and Vivian saw mysterious lights above Sydney, doing inexplicable movements while emitting a beam of light.

Later that same year, in July, while lying on the bed, he felt a sudden pressure around his ankles, as if something grabbed him. Suddenly, his entire body went numb in an instant before being completely paralyzed, yet he somehow retained ordinary waking consciousness. He then observed three to four strange looking beings appearing around his bed. Khoury received a telepathic notion which signaled to him that he should relax and let go of his fear, stating that *"It would be like last time"*. One of the beings — a tall, thin, golden being with large

black eyes — got closer to him. It looked to be preparing to insert a long, needle-like object into the top-left part of his skull. Khoury then blacked out.

After some time, Peter Khoury awoke and hastily made his way into the other room to his father and his brother, who were both in a state of deep sleep. After shaking them awake, both of them felt that only 10 minutes or so had passed since they dozed off. However, when they looked at the clock, it became obvious that well over an hour had gone by.

The next morning, Vivian discovered that there was a slight puncture mark on the side of Peter's head, surrounded by a small trace of dried blood. At this time in his life, Peter Khoury was mostly uninformed about the phenomenon of alien abduction, and he struggled to find answers to his startling and confusing experience. Some months after the event, he came upon the book "Communion" by Whitley Stieber, by being drawn towards the cover of the book on a billboard. The cover showed a thin, golden, black eyed being which resembled that of his own encounter. While reading the book, he discovered that numerous characteristics of Strieber's accounts matched his own experience.

He went on to read more about UFO and ET subjects, and decided he would contact the local researchers regarding his encounter. With the more limited communication at the time, finding UFO groups and fellow experiencers proved troublesome. The few he found also turned out to be uninterested in working with him. Frustrated by the lack of community, Khoury decided to take matters into his own hands. Later, in 1993, he founded the "UFO Experience Support Association", or "UFOESA".

One year before the founding of the group, however, Peter Khoury would experience a new, even more mind-boggling event involving unknown beings. This time it would be much more intimate than the last.

On July 23rd, 1992, Khoury was lying asleep in bed at 7:30 AM. He had just driven his wife to her workplace before returning home. He himself had been recently injured at work, and was on leave for a while. For some reason, he awoke abruptly, and was greeted with a highly perplexing sight.

On the bed in front of him sat two, humanoid, female entities, both completely naked. The two of them had a

mostly human appearance. Their bodies were fit and well proportioned, with perfectly clear skin. One of the beings closely resembled the Asian phenotype, with straight, black, medium length hair, light brown skin and dark eyes. The other female being had more Scandinavian features. She had light, bluish eyes and long, blonde hair. He got the impression that the blonde was communicating telepathically with the dark haired one, giving her instructions.

Despite the many similarities to earth women, however, the females had several "alien" aspects as well. Their facial features were very sharp and chiseled. They had large cheekbones and eyes which were 2 to 3 times the average size. Khoury also noticed the blonde female's face in particular, which was more elongated than those of normal women. Her forehead was also quite spacious, and her hair was *"Curled something like Farrah Fawcett, but to an extreme"* which *"looked really exotic in a way"*. Talking about their overall appearance, he stated*: "I have never seen a human looking like that"*.

Just having woken up moments ago, Khoury was in a groggy and highly confused state. Before he managed to make sense of the situation, the blonde female grabbed the

back of his head and pulled him close to her naked breasts. Out of fear and confusion, he resisted, which made her pull harder. She was apparently much stronger than she looked, and planted his face against one of her nipples. For some reason unbeknownst to himself, in the heat of the moment he bit down on her nipple, and he could feel a small piece of what he presumed to be flesh getting into his mouth.

The blonde female didn't recoil in pain as one might suspect she would. Instead she calmly displayed disappointment. Peter Khoury stated: *"The expression on her face was like "this isn't the way". In a way it was shock or confusion. She looked at the Asian one and then looked at me like, this isn't the way it's supposed to happen, you've done this wrong."*

Khoury then swallowed the small piece of flesh by accident, and it got stuck in his throat. He started coughing violently, causing him to lean over the bed. When he eventually got up again, the two beings had vanished. Once he had checked the house and saw that they were gone, he went and got some water to clear his throat, but to no avail. It would take several days before the coughing stopped completely. Later, when he went to the bathroom

to urinate, he felt a painful sensation near the top of his penis. He pulled back the foreskin and discovered two thin, platinum blonde strands of hair which were tightly wrapped around it. He removed the strands and put them in a sealed plastic bag.

In 1998, author and UFO researcher, Bill Chalker, was given the hair samples to investigate. He, in turn, handed them over to a team of biochemists, who studied the strands closely using mitochondrial PCR DNA profiling. The results where perplexing.

The study showed that the strand of hair apparently belonged to someone biologically close to humans, but of an extremely rare subgroup of the Chinese Mongoloid variant. Immediately this was seen as puzzling, as the hair sample was of a clear, blonde color as opposed to the normally dark hair of Asian people. This information was gathered from testing the shaft of the hair. When analyzing the root of the hair, however, it seemed to indicate an also extremely rare Gaelic type DNA.

Back in 1998 this mixture was very confusing, but later, in the year of 2000, new discoveries in biotechnology showed that such hair transplanting with once

incompatible hair could be possible while using advanced cloning techniques. Even stranger, the tests showed signs of certain genes being deleted. More specifically, it showed two deleted genes for CCR5 protein while no intact gene for normal undeleted CCR5 could be detected. CCR5, or C-C chemokine receptor type 5, is a protein on the surface of white blood cells which is involved in the immune system. This CCR5 deletion aspect has been known to play a part in AIDS resistance.

Based on the details of these findings, some UFO researchers have speculated that the two beings were actually human/alien hybrids. It seemed as if someone had tinkered with the genetics of these female humanoids. Additionally, in "UFO lore" it is well established that many of the abduction stories related to the classic "grey" aliens and similar creatures often include some sort of genetic retrieval, in the form of harvested sperm or egg. The two beings, particularly the blonde, also had physical features which seemed to be a mix between regular humans and the very same beings which Khoury encountered in July of 1988.

In the end, the test results were staggering, but left all of the involved with more questions than answers. The

physical analysis brought a new sense of credibility to Peter Khoury's otherwise highly controversial story, and he gained more confidence in talking about his experiences.

Peter Khoury has appeared in several documentary films since the extraordinary events took place, perhaps most notably in the 2010 production "My Mum Talks To Aliens!", by the Australian television network SBS (Special Broadcasting Service). During the documentary, he relays his story in quite some detail and shows the printed results of the biochemical tests of the hair strands. He also agreed to undergo a polygraph test, which he passed on camera.

To this day, Peter Khoury remains the head of the UFO Experience Support Association in Australia, which keeps an open door for people with similar experiences.

Chapter 13

The Ariel School, Zimbabwe Mass Sighting, 1994

The Ariel School is a private school for elementary aged children based in Ruwa, Zimbabwe which is located 12 miles from Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. The school was just as any other until everything changed on the 16th of September, 1994. The teachers and students of the Ariel School were just going through the motions of a normal school day when everything turned to the bizarre.

The children in the school became bewildered with what they were witnessing. Suddenly, 5 (some other reports say 3) strange objects came out of the skies. Witnesses say the objects would appear, vanish and reappear in a different spot. It was like the UFOs were playing hide and seek with the children. Finally, one of the strange crafts — the largest one — hovered near the school and slowly landed on the hill grounds just outside the schoolyard. This was witnessed by a total of 62 students, aged 5 to 12. One of the mothers of the children was at the school tending to her tuck shop at the time. The mother was selling candies, sodas, and other snacks. The teachers of the school, meanwhile, were in a meeting when the encounter

happened, and failed to get a glimpse of the fantastic incident taking place outside.

The curious children ran towards the boundary of the school to see what landed on the hills nearby. There, they saw a small figure appear on top of the craft. Some accounts of the incident say the children saw two figures and that the other one disembarked from the object and walked on the ground towards where the children were. When the creature observed the children, it suddenly disappeared into thin air. Moments later, it was back on its vessel. It then got inside of the craft within the blink of an eye, flew away and was never seen again. The creatures were said to be only about 3 feet tall. The children described the strange beings as small dark-grey men with scrawny necks, long black hair, and huge rugby ball-like eyes. They were also apparently wearing tight, black suits.

The main creature communicated with some of the children via thoughts shared through direct eye contact before fleeing. It supposedly told them that mankind is polluting and destroying the planet and should be wise to take care of it, or else there will be dire consequences. One child in particular also recalled the alien warning them that mankind was too technologically advanced compared to its spiritual development.

Understandably, the children — especially the younger ones who were in front — were terrified. Some of them were already crying and shouting for help. The students ran to the mother who owned the tuck shop for help but she didn't respond as she hesitated to leave her store. Others rushed to get their teachers who thought the children were lying at first. When the children were dismissed for the day they all rushed home to tell their parents about what happened. Most of the parents went right away to the school to clear things up with the teachers, as many of the kids were clearly upset about whatever had happened.

Africa's famed UFOlogist Cynthia Hind, a field investigator for MUFON, was at the scene the following day. Before arriving, she asked the headmaster, Colin Mackie, to separate the children from each other and instruct them to draw what they saw. To their amazement, all 35 drawings made that day were eerily similar. Hind interviewed up to 12 of the children. One eyewitness named Barry D. told her that he saw three objects with red light flashing, flying in the skies. He then saw the 3 craft land close to the gum trees near the school. An 11-year old girl told them about the rugby-eyes of the aliens. Another girl said, when asked about the incident, that she swore *"by every hair on my head and the whole Bible that I am*

telling the truth." When considering that children as young as they were are generally not known to lie in such an organized fashion, the fact that 62 children decided to tell the same lie seems to be quite a stretch.

It should also be noted that it wasn't the only encounter or sighting that happened during that period. A number of people say they saw UFOs flying over Zimbabwe for a couple of days before the Ariel School incident took place. Hind documented these sightings in an article she wrote, titled "UFO Flap in Zimbabwe: Case No. 95". In it she mentioned that a "pyrotechnic display of some magnificence" was seen by a number of people in the "almost clear night skies of this part of the continent." She further detailed that among the witnesses were respectable people such as astronomers and scientists. Many of the witnesses showed her sketches of the objects they saw in the sky. Almost all of them drew a zeppelin-like, yet alien-looking figure.

The late Dr. John E. Mack, then a Professor of Psychiatry from Harvard, and his associate Dominique Callimanopulos, also answered the call to investigate what truly happened that day in Ruwa. Mack, a Pulitzer Prize winner, conducted interviews with the children which lasted from November 28 to December 6 of the

same year, with the help of Nicky Carter, a South African producer. Carter's half-brother worked at the school but wasn't at the premises when the encounter happened. He was later told by some of the students about the incident which led him to inform Carter, who rushed to the school and made a short documentary about the sighting. Carter believes the children were telling the truth.

Five years after the Ariel School Sighting, Mack published a book about the encounter. In his book "Abduction", Mack detailed several encounters with the third kind including the Ariel School Mass Sighting. Due to his serious attitude regarding these phenomena, his fellow academicians had their doubts regarding Mack's sanity, and he was consequently investigated by the institution. It took a whole 14 months for Harvard to determine that there was nothing wrong with Mack and his work on UFOs. Aside from his books, Mack also lent his video recordings of his interviews with the children to the TV shows "Sightings and Unsolved Mysteries".

A filmmaker by the name of Randall Nickerson had also become rather fixated with the story of the Zimbabwe children and the alien beings. He, along with Callimanopulos, got permission from the John E. Mack Institute to produce a video program showing all of

Mack's recorded interviews with the students. Nickerson went to Africa and spent nine months there from 2008 to 2009. During his stay in Zimbabwe, Nickerson found other people who witnessed the same flying objects that the children saw back in 1994. Nickerson also talked to Tim Leech, the BBC reporter who went to Ruwa a few days after the encounter. It was Leech who informed Mack of the sighting. Sadly, Leech died a few months after his interview with Nickerson. It was actually the only time Leech gave an interview regarding his experiences related to the Ruwa incident.

Nickerson, however, didn't stop there. He found many of the 62 children who witnessed the encounter. Now grown up, most of the former students had left Zimbabwe and were scattered all over the world. When he interviewed them, what fascinated Nickerson the most was that their accounts hadn't changed at all. The stories of the children remained the same as they were back then, indicating, once again, that something otherworldly truly had made its mark that day.

So, after listening to the accounts in this book, what are we to make of it all?

Are governments and intelligence agencies keeping information from the public?

Have beings from elsewhere already visited our planet?

One thing is for certain: Sightings of UFOs and ETs are still ongoing. With our world becoming ever more interconnected, many people are now sharing their stories between cultures and across borders. Information that was previously only found on the fringes of society is now readily available thanks to the internet. Who knows what exciting revelations the future may bring?

Until then, keep looking up. You never know what you might see…

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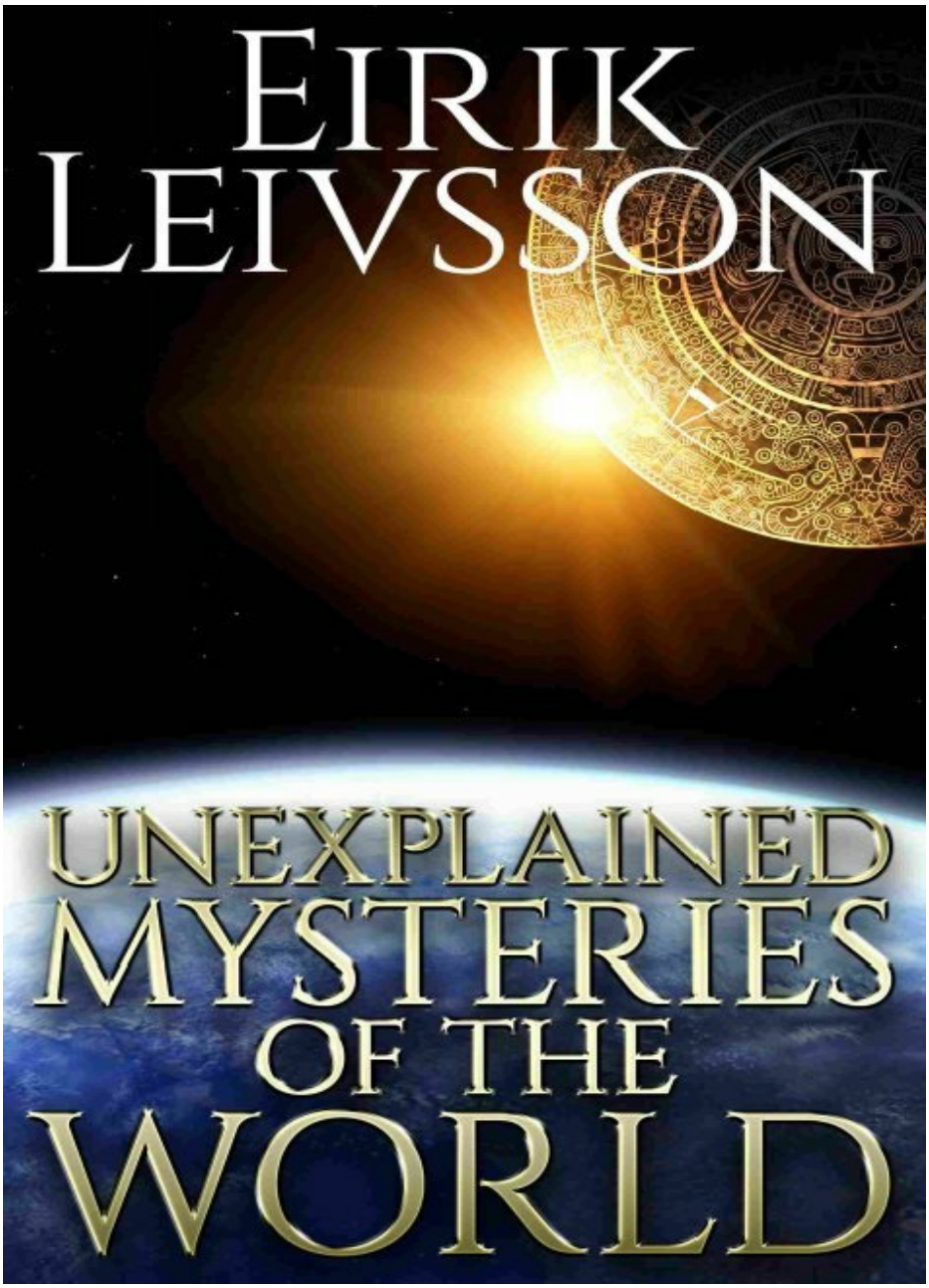
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UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD

By Eirik Leivsson

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Chapter 1:
Incident at Dyatlov Pass

The Facts

Igor Dyatlov and his crew of nine were expected back in the Russian town of Vizhai on February 12, 1959. All were experienced ski-hikers, and their trek through Russia's northern Ural Mountains should have provided no serious problems for them. On January 27, the group left Vizhai – the last town located that far north in the region – for the trek to mount Otorten (a word meaning "don't go there" in the indigenous Mansi language). One of the hikers, Yuri Yudin, turned back a day into the journey due to illness. He would be the last person to see his nine companions alive.

February 12 came and went. Yudin remained unworried: longer mountain treks often spilled over a day or two, sometimes longer, and Dyatlov had told him to wait until the 14th. By February 20, however, Yudin and relatives of the now-missing hikers demanded a search and rescue. Police, teachers, students and local Mansi tribespeople were soon joined by military personnel, helicopters and planes. After almost a week of searching, the last campsite of Dyatlov's team was discovered on Kholat Syakhl, a mountain slope ten kilometres south of their destination of Otorten. What they found baffled them.

The group's tent was partly torn down and covered in light snow, with almost all provisions and clothing left inside – even shoes. Eight or nine sets of tracks leading away from the campsite indicated that some members of the group were barefoot or only wearing one shoe, despite temperatures that would have ranged between -15°C and -30°C. Investigators kept following the tracks: they became obscured after 500 meters but pointed toward a nearby woodland a kilometer further on. At the edge of the woods, underneath a tall cedar tree, the first two dead bodies were found alongside the remains of a small fire. They were only partially clothed. The grisly discoveries continued, with three more bodies (including Dyatlov's) being found at staggered intervals in the 1.5 kilometers between the cedar and the campsite, facing toward the tent.

Although the search continued for the remaining four missing hikers, a legal inquest began immediately. Investigators surveyed the site's geography and ruled out avalanche as a probable cause. The tent was discovered to have been cut open from the inside, and the nearby tracks suggested that the group walked – not ran – from the campsite toward the woods. At the woods edge, the tall cedar was found to have broken branches five meters up,

possibly gathered for the fire at its base. An autopsy concluded that the five who were discovered died from hypothermia, although Rustem Slobodin – one of the three who appeared to be making their way back to the tent – also had numerous minor head wounds, including a small crack in his skull.

Two months passed and the spring thaw only revealed deeper mysteries…

75 meters further into the woods, at the bottom of a ravine, the final four hikers were found near a makeshift shelter on May 4. All were wearing items of clothing belonging to fallen members of the group and seemed better outfitted against the cold. The subsequent autopsy suggested only one of the four died of hypothermia, the other three succumbed to traumatic internal injuries including multiple broken ribs, a heavily fractured skull, and – in the case of Lyudmila Dubanina – a missing tongue.

Suddenly, the crack found earlier in Rustem Slobodin's skull didn't seem so small.

The Theories

The initial investigation by the Russians concluded that the hiking group died as a result of a "compelling natural force". But what 'force', natural or otherwise, would cause nine experienced hikers to cut themselves free of their only shelter and escape into the below-freezing winter night? Why would they – some barefoot or in socks – then *walk* to the woods? Only for three of them to try to and make it back to camp? To confound matters further, there are several finer details worth noting:

- There are various claims that high levels of radiation were detected throughout the area, but comments from initial investigators only mention superficial beta-radiation, possibly from Dubanina's lab coat.

- At the campsite, search crews reported finding a torch *on top* of the tent. Additionally, despite not having any spares, a ski-pole was found which seems to have been intentionally cut in two.

- Unlike the other two members of the group found making their way back toward camp, the ice underneath

Slobodin's body had melted, indicating his body was still warm when he fell. Combined with the skull fracture, it has been suggested that he was subjected to some form of blunt force trauma on his way back to the tent.

- Building a fire in the middle of a below-zero Russian night is not an easy task, indicating that at least some of the hikers had their wits about them.

- Although Yuri Yudin – the surviving hiker who turned back – distinctly remembered seeing Alexander Kolevatov keeping a personal diary, this item was never listed among the recovered belongings. Yudin was later asked to identify items found at the scene, several of which he thought did *not* belong to his friends. These incidents (along with the military's file on the case, supposedly dated February 6 – almost three weeks before any investigation began) led Yudin to believe that the military found the camp well before other search crews.

- In one of the pictures taken of the ravine bodies, Semyon Zolotarev appears to be wearing a camera around his neck, even though his personal camera was discovered over two months earlier at the campsite. Officially, the

item is recognized as a ski mask.

- The list could continue, but it gets harder to corroborate. 57 years, several deceased eye-witnesses, and the general secrecy of the Cold War-era Soviet government has a tendency to bury things deeper than the snow. Recent articles, documentaries and Youtube clips have only confounded the matter further, repeating false information and – perhaps unwillingly – adding to the haze of myth surrounding the incident at Dyatlov Pass. As with many mysteries, it has become a sort of societal Rorscharch test – an inkblot in which we see our deepest fears reflected. The theories have ranged from the somewhat plausible to the ridiculous, although none are without flaws.

What do you see in the inkblot?

Theory # 1: Avalanche

This theory was almost immediately ruled out by early investigators; additionally, in the years since the incident, the 100 or so camps that have been made in the area have not witnessed even a minor snowdrift. This doesn't discount the group *thinking* that an avalanche was taking place. But why would such experienced hikers then

attempt a downhill escape?

Theory # 2: Paradoxical Undressing

Did the hikers – in the throes of hypothermia – become delusional, undress, cut themselves from the tent, then walk off into the night? Paradoxical undressing usually occurs, if at all, in the last stages of hypothermia. Yet the group was active for some time after leaving the tent, even able to make a fire in the night. Additionally, the least-dressed hikers (found beneath the cedar) very probably died first – items of their clothing were later found on the bodies in the ravine. Was one half of the group paradoxically undressing while the rest were sensibly dressed?

Theory #3: Ravine Fall

It has been suggested that the traumatic injuries of three of the last four hikers were from a fall into the ravine where they were found. How, then, were they able to construct a makeshift shelter at the bottom of the ravine? Or was it pre-existing? Does the 100g of coagulated blood found in

Lyudmila Dubanina's stomach during her autopsy support the idea of internal bleeding after a fall, or does it suggest her tongue was removed while she was still alive? And if the internal injuries were so pervasive (Dr Vozrojdenniy, who performed the autopsies, described the trauma as being equivalent to a car crash), where was the corresponding soft tissue damage?

Despite the preservative conditions of Russian winter, the last four bodies were found three months after the incident, and during the spring thaw. The exact details of what occurred in that ravine, although they may be crucial to our understanding of the surrounding mystery, are perhaps the most obscured of all.

Theory #4: Mountain of the Dead

Kholat Syakhl is a Mansi name meaning "mountain of the dead". Taken together with Otorten's similarly dire "don't go there", one would be forgiven for thinking that native people considered the area cursed. In fact, the names most likely refer to the scarcity of food in the area – lack of flora and fauna meant that the Mansi avoided these areas as hunting or gathering grounds; they simply had no use for

them. This hasn't stopped tales spreading of an earlier ill-fated group of Mansi hunters, or a fatal plane crash in the area (both events also apparently claiming nine lives). A lack of any evidence whatsoever seems to cast doubt on both these stories, however.

Theory #5: UFOs

According to several sources, there was significant UFO activity before, during and after the incident at Dyatlov Pass. Take your pick as to the origin of these lights, as several have been proposed: extraterrestrials, interdimensionals, the military, or unexplained natural phenomena. Lev Ivanov – a prosecutor who headed the inquest as of March, '59 – went so far as to publish an article in the *Leninskyi Put* newspaper in 1990 claiming he was asked by officials to withdraw evidence of "fire balls" from his original investigation, which he believed were connected to the hikers' deaths. Accusations of government cover-up also bring to mind Yuri Yudin's belief that the military were at Dyatlov's campsite long before any of the other search crews.

Theory #6: Zolotarev

Conspiracy-minded folk also draw attention to Semyon 'Alexander' Zolotarev, one of the four discovered in the ravine. Aside from the potential 'extra camera' he was carrying, Zolotarev was over a decade older than any of the rest of the group, and was not a member of the Ural Polytechnical Institute (UPI) like the others were. In fact, he only joined Dyatlov's group at the last minute – he was initially scheduled to hike with another group, but changed so that he would have time to visit his sick mother after the trip.

Kolevatov – also found in the ravine, and owner of a potentially-missing/stolen diary – is often drawn into the web of intrigue: he is said to have worked at a secret lab in Moscow prior to studying at UPI, and had plans on joining the military. But to what ends were they supposedly working? Classified weapons testing? Did Zolotarev change hiking groups because Dyatlov's route brought him closer to some secret rendezvous, or was he just keen on seeing his mother?

Considering the amount of time that's passed – and barring the release of pertinent government documents – we're not likely to ever know what tragedy befell Igor Dyatlov and

his eight companions. Each theory has at least one flaw in it. So maybe I should ask again, what do you see in the inkblot?

Chapter 2:
The Mothman

Look, up in the sky!

On January 17, 1909, an unidentified winged creature was reported throughout the American state of New Jersey. Over the next five days, hundreds of sightings – across more than thirty towns – were published in newspapers, prompting the closure of several schools in the Delaware valley. Farmers set steel traps in the fields while hunters attempted to track the beast. “The Jersey Devil” was on the loose.

Police officer James Sackville – one of the first recorded witnesses – saw the creature during a routine patrol in Bristol, Pennsylvania on the 17th. He heard dogs barking around 2am and went to investigate, only to find himself confronted by a large winged entity with strange features. It emitted a terrible scream and Sackville ran toward it, firing his weapon, but the creature flew off. James Sackville would later become Bristol's chief of police.

In the hundred years since the rash of sightings, various theories have been put forward as explanation: mass hysteria, an unknown species, a sandhill crane, a scrow-

foot duck, an extraterrestrial, a pterosaur, or even the demonic 13th child of one 'Mother Leeds'. The 'Devil' continues to be seen up to the present day in and around the state of New Jersey, but creatures of its kind have been reported across the globe. Over 50 years after the infamous 1909 sightings, another wave of winged hominid reports would sweep the nearby state of West Virginia.

The “Mothman” was on the loose.

Point Pleasant

The *Point Pleasant Register* carried an unusual article on November 16, 1966: "Couples See Man-Sized Bird... Creature... Something". Although it was somewhat light on detail, it was the first published report of what would soon be known as 'Mothman', and would find fuller account in John Keel's book on the subject, *The Mothman Prophecies*.

On the night of November 15 – between 11:30pm and midnight – two young couples were driving through a region known to locals as the 'TNT Area'. Ten kilometers north of Point Pleasant and situated within the McClintic Wildlife Management Area, the TNT area used to be the site of ordinance and explosive manufacture during World War II. Now, it was a teenage hangout: a venue known for dirt-road drag races, lovers' lanes, and the occasional police patrol. That night, however, the two couples – cruising in Roger and Linda Scarberry's '57 Chevrolet – saw no one else on the lonely back roads.

Linda was the first to notice something as they slowed down near an old power plant: two bright red circles "about two inches in diameter and six inches apart". Roger

stopped the car and all four saw that the circles were attached to a larger figure, perhaps an animal of some sort. "It was shaped like a man, but bigger... Maybe six and a half or even seven feet tall. And it had big wings folded against its back." The couples stared transfixed at the creature's eyes before it turned slowly away from them and shuffled toward the power plant. Steve Mallette yelled from the back seat and Roger stepped on the accelerator, heading for the nearby Route 62.

They passed a hill by the side of the road and saw the thing again – or another one like it – spread its wings and rise straight up in the air "like a helicopter". Roger pulled onto Route 62 in an effort to outrun it: "We were doing one hundred miles an hour and that bird kept right up with us. It wasn't even flapping its wings." Mary Mallette heard it making a squeaking sound "like a big mouse." It finally stopped following them as they neared the city limits.

Heading straight to Mason County courthouse, they poured into the sheriff's station in the early hours of the morning, telling their story to Deputy Millard Halstead. The visibly shaken couples went back to where they saw the creature along with the deputy and city police, but could find no evidence. Dozens of locals drove out to the TNT area the

next day, armed with guns and eager to catch or kill whatever had been seen the night before. However, no Mothman could be found.

Marcella Bennett was visiting friends about a kilometer away from the aspiring monster hunters, but her story wouldn't be published until the next day. Sitting in her parked car, she noticed a figure several metres behind her in the darkness: "It seemed as if it had been lying down... It rose up slowly from the ground. A big gray thing. Bigger than a man, with terrible glowing red eyes." Mrs Bennett's friend grabbed her and they ran inside, locking the door behind them. After hearing a sound on the porch, however, they became horrified to find that the red eyes were still peering at them through the window. The police were immediately called, but the creature had vanished by the time they reached the house.

A wave of Mothman sightings followed on from these initial reports, concentrated over the November – December period of 1966, but lasting up until the tragic collapse of the Silver Bridge the following December. Many of these are catalogued by Gray Barker and – most famously – John Keel, who believed that the Mothman functioned as a sort of interdimensional herald of doom.

At the other end of the spectrum, skeptics are quick to point out that the Mothman was probably little more than a misidentified barn owl or sandhill crane (the latter an explanation also given to the Jersey Devil).

So which is it? Without physical evidence, we are left with dozens of eyewitness testimonies, some of which are admittedly hard to believe. But should that be the test of truth? Should we assume if someone sees something extraordinary that they have simply misidentified the ordinary?

Post-Pleasant

When the Silver Bridge collapsed and killed 46 people on December 15 of 1967, the Mothman stopped being seen in Point Pleasant. But its close cousins continued to appear the world over. In early 1976, along the Mexican-American border in Texas, a large, red-eyed flying entity reportedly wreaked havoc for several months. Besides the mauling of local livestock, the creature attacked a man named Armando Grimaldo while he was in his mother-in-law's backyard. After hearing "a funny kind of whistling" and the flap of wings, Grimaldo was grabbed from above by "something with big claws." As he ran, he looked back to see a bird as big as a man, with leathery skin, a strange bat-like face and glowing red eyes. It terrorized him, following him around the backyard and shredding some of his clothing before he managed to run inside the house and collapse. He was taken to the hospital and treated for shock and minor wounds before being released.

More recently, a "winged humanoid" was reportedly seen in Singapore on three separate occasions in the first week of September, 2015; less than a year before that, the small Argentinian town of Quilino was host to its own flying creature, both being identified as 'Mothman'. What are we to make of these sightings?

Keel's Window

John Keel – author of the *The Mothman Prophecies* and pre-eminent researcher of the Point Pleasant sightings – originally subscribed to an extraterrestrial explanation of UFOs, gradually opening to a more holistic view of the paranormal. Indeed, Keel linked the Mothman visitations to UFO sightings, men in black encounters, psychic phenomena and the collapse of the Silver Bridge. Point Pleasant was an example of what he called a 'window' or 'window area' (Keel was a deft hand at coining ufological phrases: we also have him to thank for 'waves', 'ultraterrestrials', and even 'men in black'). Cornwall, England was another such 'window' in 1976, bristling with reports of UFOs, a sea creature (the 'Morgawr Monster') and an 'Owlman' – a large winged hominid with red glowing eyes.

Mothman, The Jersey Devil, Owlman... Are they all the same entity? Carl Jung might say they were reflections of a basic human archetype. A dark, anthropomorphic figure with red eyes could be interpreted as an encounter with the Shadow archetype, with things we repress. If we saw a medieval bible with an illustration of such, we'd very

likely interpret it as a demon or devil. Is that what Mothman is, then, a modern-day satan of suburbia? The projected shadow-self of our collective unconscious? On the other hand, several of the Mothman encounters suggest a definite, physical presence. As we attempt to understand quantum law and 'observer effect' the line between objectivity and subjectivity becomes increasingly blurred. On which side does Mothman sit? Both?

Chapter 3:
The Riddle of the Sphinx

Riddle me this

"What goes on four legs in the morning, two legs at midday, and three legs in the evening?"

This was the question asked by the Sphinx as she prowled the outskirts of the Grecian city of Thebes, according to Sophocles in his play *Oedipus the King*. If the question was answered wrongly – death. Thankfully for Thebes (and later, Sigmund Freud) the hero of the play answers correctly: "Man," who crawls in infancy, walks upright in maturity, and carries a cane in old age. The Sphinx hurls herself into the sea and Thebes rejoices.

But although the word 'sphinx' itself very probably derives from the Greek *sphíngō*, meaning 'strangler' or 'to tighten', it was through sea-trade with the Egyptians that the mythical creature found its way to the Hellenic world, gaining a pair of wings and a lousy disposition as it went. And it is the famous Egyptian rendition that we think of today: The Great Sphinx of Giza.

It is silent, staring across time and space. What can we learn of its mysteries?

Archaeology

Ironically enough, when Grecian occupation of Egypt was at its height – during the Ptolemaic dynasties – the Sphinx of Giza was probably buried at least up to its neck in sand. Although the ancient writer Herodotus considered the Great Pyramid at Giza to be a 'wonder of the world', he made no mention of the Sphinx. In fact, for the majority of its history it has been obscured by sands, only to be uncovered again in 1905. It captured the imagination of the world, and a debate began which rages to this day: how old is the Sphinx?

The established view contends that the Sphinx was built during the Fourth Dynasty (c. 2613 – 2494 BCE) for either pharaoh Khufu, Djedefra, or Khafre. This timeframe is again narrowed by Egyptologists Zahi Hawass and Mark Lehner, who single out Khafre (owner of the nearby second-tallest pyramid at Giza) as both client and model for the face. But does this hold up to scrutiny? It's worth noting there are no inscriptions from the time linking Khafre with the Sphinx – this attribution derives largely from the positioning of the Sphinx (in front of the 'pyramid of Khafre'), a statue of Khafre found buried upside-down in the nearby Valley Temple, and the 'Dream Stele'.

This rather circumstantial proof has led to an ongoing debate over the Sphinx's age, with Khafre-critics offering alternative views that range from the reasonable to the downright ludicrous. While none are wholly convincing in and of themselves, there are several holes in the 'official' story:

The 'Dream Stele' – a large stone tablet placed between the paws of the Sphinx – mentions only *part* of Khafre's name (Khaf), and even this syllable had flaked off by 1925 when the Stele was again excavated. There were Egyptologists at the time who interpreted the Stele as referring to Khafre's *excavation* of the Sphinx, rather than his association with building it.

The 'Inventory Stele' – on the other hand – states that Khufu (Khafre's father) made restorations to the head of the Sphinx, implying that it had been there long before. Conservative Egyptologists point out that the 'Inventory Stele' was inscribed over a thousand years after the reigns of both Khufu and Khafre... but so too was the 'Dream Stele'.

The head of the Sphinx is not only a little out of proportion – it's a *lot* out of proportion. But the ancient Egyptians were renowned stonemasons and artisans, so why should this be the case? Has it been re-carved? Similarly, large-scale propaganda projects would be undertaken by later Dynasties: Queen Hatshepsut almost never made it to the history books after nearly all mention of her name was destroyed by succeeding rulers Thutmose III and Amenhotep II. Similarly – although in this case while trying to institute monotheism – Akhenaten ordered all mention of the rival god Amon wiped out. Could Khafre merely have laid claim to the Sphinx, not built it?

Enter The Dissenters

The idea that water erosion was a significant factor in determining the Sphinx's age entered the public domain via *The Mystery of the Sphinx*, a documentary which showcased the work of John Anthony West and geologist Robert Schoch. Despite receiving their own criticism (especially from establishment figures Hawass and Lehner), West and Schoch's work received independent verification from English geologist Colin Reader. Although arriving at significantly later dates than Schoch (who had proposed a c. 5000 – 10000 BCE date for

construction), Reader still concluded that the Sphinx predated both Khufu's and Khafre's constructions by several hundred years, placing it in the Early Dynastic Period. Yet another independent study (performed by geologist David Coxhill) suggested a pre-Dynastic construction date. Could the Sphinx pre-date the pyramids?

All three studies also concluded it was built at the same time as the nearby Valley and Sphinx Temples, which were later expanded upon by the redevelopment efforts of Khufu, Khafre & co. Interestingly, these temples (Valley and Sphinx) feature a style of masonry that differs from the surrounding Giza plateau, typified by particularly large, undressed limestone megaliths, some weighing over 200 tonnes – significantly larger than those used in regular temple construction. This almost unique masonry is also shared by the Osireion, an enigmatic chapel connected to the temple of Seti I at Abydos. Were all three built around the same time as the Sphinx?

Tunnel Vision

Here's where things get even murkier. Remember the

'establishment' figure I mentioned, Zahi Hawass? As admirable as his efforts may be on one level, he also has a somewhat chequered past. Hawass, Chief Inspector of the Giza Pyramid Plateau, resigned briefly from his position in 1993... though there are claims he was fired for a scandal involving a theft from a hidden 'door' in the Great Pyramid (the Rudolf Gantenbrink door). Either way, he was re-instated in '94, promoted to Director of the Giza Plateau in '98, and in 2002 became the Secretary General of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities.

He has been accused of blocking archaeological digs and stopping progress in general on any projects but his own, all the while being a reality TV star (on his own show: *Chasing Mummies*) and pocketing $200,000 a year for being National Geographic's 'explorer-in-residence'. In 2011 – amidst a debacle involving contracts, the Egyptian Museum gift shop, and a company Hawass had holdings in – Zahi Hawass was sentenced to a year in prison. The jail sentence would be lifted the next day. Meanwhile, that same month in London, Hawass' line of "khakis, denim shirts and carefully worn leather jackets" went on sale at Harrod's department store.

By July, the Egyptian government had been turned over,

and Hawass 'resigned' from his position – although there are numerous accounts (one filmed) from co-workers that he was sacked amid a torrent of abuse. Apparently some people had wanted him gone for a while.

Somewhere among the drama, there were consistent rumours of underground digs being carried out – at night – beneath the Giza plateau. A film uploaded to youtube, then taken down, of objects being carted away in the darkness to be taken to a nearby airport. Then — in 2009 — six men died when an illegal tunnel collapsed beneath the Giza plateau, not too far from the Sphinx. Allegations of state funding and momentous finds were whispered.

Conspiracy gibberish? Maybe. But there does seem to be something strange going on underneath Giza, and Hawass hasn't helped clarify matters by making several contradictory statements to the press and in his blog about the presence of underground tunnels. The area has always been known to be riddled with caves – Giza's ancient name was *Rostau*, the 'mouth of passages' – but could it lead beneath the Sphinx? To the Hall of Records?

Mythology

Edgar Cayce – the 'sleeping prophet' – once predicted that one of the three Atlantean Halls of Records would be found beneath the Sphinx. Similar Atlantean origins have been claimed of the Sphinx itself. Although such ideas are tantalizing, the proof at this point is circumstantial at best. But there are several clues to the Riddle, scattered through the pre-history that we're still uncovering:

Aker – an ancient Egyptian deity known from at least the First Dynasty – represented the horizon. He was depicted as a lion and protected the sun god when he first entered the netherworld. Was the early Giza site the home of a solar lion cult, like Colin Reader believes? Did the original Sphinx have the head of a lion? And was the cult located underneath Giza?

Nabta Playa was an important ceremonial center in southern Egypt for Saharan nomadic peoples from at least 12,000 years ago. Evidence of cult worship begins to emerge around the 6th millennium BCE. Stone calendar circles which echo Stonehenge – and predate it by 2000 years – show that the people closely observed the stars. Hawass' cohort Mark Lehner says of a possible relationship to early Egyptian culture: "It makes sense, but

not in a facile, direct way. You can't go straight from these megaliths to the pyramid of Djoser." Hmm, touchy Mark? Hawass was also keen to confine Egypt to the Nilotic peoples and keep the Sub-Saharan African influence on the quiet.

The *Löwenmensch* figurine is a prehistoric sculpture found in Germany. It has a humanoid shape, but a lion's head. It has been dated to c. 40,000 BCE.

When the 11,000-year-old site at Gobekli Tepe was discovered, The Guardian finished their coverage of the find with a quote from Vecihi Ozkaya, the director of a nearby dig at Kortiktepe: (while pointing to a photo of a half-human, half-lion statuette) "Look at this... It's a sphinx, thousands of years before Egypt. South-eastern Turkey, northern Syria - this region saw the wedding night of our civilisation." Despite message boards buzzing – and the passage of almost 8 years – no one seems to be able to find a picture, or indeed any further reference to this mysterious proto-sphinx. Was it an archaeologist exaggerating? Or was it something we're not supposed to see?

Chapter 4:
Göbekli Tepe

Enigma Uncovered

A 1963 survey carried out by the universities of Istanbul and Chicago found archaeological remains atop a plateau in southeast Turkey. They noted possible neolithic material, but assumed that huge limestone slabs in the area were Medieval gravestones. 31 years later an archaeologist named Klaus Schmidt read the '63 survey's brief description of the site and decided to go and have a look for himself.

He arrived at the mound on the plateau where the 'gravestones' were recorded and recognized them for what they potentially were – the tops of megalithic T-shaped pillars, similar to ones unearthed at a dig he'd been working on at nearby Nevalı Çori. The following year, with the aid of the Sanhurfa Museum, Schmidt began excavation on the site and found the pillars he suspected. A new historical wonder had been unearthed – Göbekli Tepe.

A Site for Sore Eyes

In a nutshell:

- It is the oldest megalithic structure known so far, dating back 11,000 years. As multiple news websites proclaimed, it is 6,000 years older than the famous Stonehenge.

- The stones from the earliest layer of activity number around 200 and are arranged into circles or 'enclosures'. Two T-shaped pillars stand in the center of each circle – the largest is six meters high and weighs 50 tons.

- As of 2011 Schmidt estimated that a mere 5% of Göbekli Tepe had been excavated.

- It appears the people who constructed these megaliths hadn't yet undergone the 'Neolithic revolution'. That means they were erected before metal-working, pottery, agriculture, animal domestication, writing or the wheel. In other words – as far as current indications go – these

people were hunter-gatherers.

- Archaeologists estimate that a group of 500 people would be needed to construct and move one of the T-shaped pillars. That's a lot of hunter-gatherers to co-ordinate. In terms of societal evolution, humans didn't congregate in such numbers until agriculture forced them to stay put and establish cities… Right?

- DNA analysis has shown that the domestication of modern wheat probably began 20 miles away at Karaca Dağ. Did social gatherings of a possibly religious nature *predate* agriculture, and not the other way around?

- Enigmatic carvings adorn the stones, some carved in relief with rounded edges. Predominantly, animals are depicted – all are wild and no pictographic representations of domestication have been found. Portrayal of formidable creatures seems to be favored.

- The standing stones seem to have been intentionally mass-buried around 8,200 BCE. No one's quite sure why.

Tepe Theories

So what does Göbekli Tepe show us of the culture who constructed it? You guessed it: there are some conflicting theories.

Klaus Schmidt believed – and popular opinion seems to side with him – that it was the world's first temple. No evidence of habitation has thus far been found (bear in mind that only, say, 10% has been unearthed), which gives circumstantial evidence to his claim. In 2015, more weight was lent to this idea by the discovery of a small plaque – 6cm by 2.5cm – showing two distinctive T-shaped pillars flanking a stick figure. Above the figure's head and between the tops of the pillars is a small hole, mirroring the placement of holes found cut in two rectangular blocks inside the enclosures. Taken together, the symbolic layout of both the enclosure at large and the plaque suggests that Schmidt could have been right in his rather bold claim.

However, he had an even bolder claim, mentioning to a reporter that Göbekli Tepe was a garden in Eden. Not necessarily Eden itself, but in the general vicinity. And his idea isn't entirely without merit. According to Schmidt, Hunter-gatherer Göbekli-ans lived a life of paradise until

agriculture and domestication (read: the fruit of knowledge) led to the Fall. Which would explain why god liked Abel's gift better than Cain's. It's also worth noting that:

- the advent of human sacrifice is generally associated with cultures that are post-Neolithic revolution (Cayonu – a later agricultural site in the immediate area – contains the earliest evidence of human sacrifice);

- the bones of neolithic hunter-gatherer societies have been shown to be much healthier than their immediate agricultural descendants, enjoying longer lives and taller and healthier physiques;

- the bones also show no difference in health between men and women (which was also soon to change), indicating that societies had no significant gender stratification;

- the cultivation of wheat very likely began in the area;

- the area was once rich in woodlands, rivers, and herds

of game before being over-farmed (it is now completely barren).

- On the more mythological front, the evidence isn't as bad as it's sometimes claimed to be:

- The Book of Genesis says Eden was bound by four rivers (two of them being the Tigris and Euphrates) and situated west of Assyria. Göbekli Tepe lies within these borders.

- The word 'Eden' derives from a Sumerian word meaning 'plain' – Göbekli is situated atop a plateau on the Harran Plains.

- Assyrian texts mention a kingdom – 'Beth Eden' – which is 50 miles away.

So, religious devotion --> temple --> settlement --> agriculture --> damnation, sacrifice, etc?

Seems like it could classify as an early instance of cosmic irony. But Schmidt's general idea of Göbekli Tepe

functioning as a temple seems to be gathering strength as more artifacts are unearthed. With so little excavated, it might not pay to get too comfortable with any particular notions... but we can always speculate.

Vulture Culture

Perhaps one of the most interesting relics unearthed so far is what has been dubbed the 'vulture stone'. Graphically speaking, along with the plaque mentioned earlier, the vulture stone is among the most complex pictograms seen at Göbekli Tepe: it depicts a headless person at the bottom of the stone surrounded by animals (mainly birds). Most prominent are two vultures – one large one, one juvenile – and a scorpion.

The larger vulture, in a stance that suggests anthropomorphism, holds a wing outstretched with a ball (presumably a literal or symbolic representation of the person's missing head) balanced on the wingtip. Although this could be read as either partially or entirely symbolic, there is evidence that perhaps some of the earliest known 'sky burials' were performed in the area.

Sky burial – a funerary practice still alive (no pun intended) today – involves a human corpse being left atop a mountain or other high place to be eaten by carrion-feeding birds. It may sound rather grim, but the practice underlies Buddhist teachings on impermanence and the sustaining cycle of life/death. Vultures – specifically –

also adorned head-dresses worn by members of female Egyptian royalty to signify their status as divine beings, and there is evidence of strange 'bird tombs' in both the Anatolian region of Turkey and the Giza plateau. Could Göbekli Tepe, then, have been the center for a vulture cult that practiced sky burial? If so, did they also interpret the ritual symbolically? Concrete answers remain elusive.

Mouth of the River

Göbekli Tepe is situated near the mouth of the Euphrates River and, symbolically enough, further downstream you'll find Mesopotamia – A.K.A: the 'birthplace of civilization'. Not that Göbekli Tepe necessarily usurps that title – yet – but it *may* provide a window into a proto-culture whose influence not only drifted down to Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Levant, but also further afield to the early Indus Valley peoples of the east. As for sky burials, it's worth noting that dismemberment, ascent and rebirth are all key elements in later Hermetic traditions and Mystery schools, not to mention the role of the Hindu goddess Kali. Was Göbekli Tepe a conduit for the dissemination of these ideas?

Chapter 5:
Teresita Basa

February 21, 1977

Chicago firefighters entered apartment 15B on 2740 North Pine Grose Avenue and made short work of the flames they found inside. From the look of it, the fire appeared to have originated from what was now a rather burnt mattress. Underneath they made a grim discovery: the body of Teresita Basa, burnt and naked, with a butcher's knife sticking out of her chest. She was a 48-year-old Filipino respiratory therapist who had worked at the nearby Edgewater Hospital. A murder investigation was opened but the few leads the Chicago P.D. had led to dead ends. After two months the case was declared cold and put aside. Enter Mrs. Remibias 'Remy' Chua.

Dreams and Visions

Remy and her husband José – like Teresita – were originally from the Philippines before they immigrated to the United States. The couple also worked at Edgewater Hospital, José as a doctor and Remy – like Teresita – as a respiratory therapist. A fortnight after the murder, Remy had a conversation at work with the technical head of her department, Jennie Prince. Jennie said Teresita must be "turning in her grave" at the fact her killer hadn't been caught – "Too bad she can't tell the police who did it." Remy opened herself to the suggestion: "She can come to me in a dream. I'm not afraid." Later that day, while napping on a break at work, she had a feeling that something was trying to contact her – she opened her eyes and was shocked to see Teresita standing there. Remy fled the room and told her colleagues what she saw.

She continued to have visions. Soon after, Remy dreamed of Teresita's face being shadowed by another face, this one male. Before long she recognized the face belonged to Allan (or Allen) Showery: an orderly who also worked at Edgewater. She didn't mention the dream to anyone at first and began developing an aversion to Showery at work. In July, Remy's visions reached a new level of intensity. At home one night, she dozed in and out of sleep (mirroring

the state of her initial 'waking' encounter), while her husband talked on the phone to his attorney. José Chua mentioned the name "Al" and Remy screamed.

Then, seemingly in a trance, she walked to the other side of the room and lay on the bed. "Ako 'y Teresita Basa" she said in Tagalog (the first language for a quarter of Filipinos) – or 'I am Teresita Basa'. Her voice had a strange, almost Spanish accent. She continued: "Doctor, I would like to ask for your help. The man who murdered me is still at large." She asked José to inform the police, but she gave no details. A few minutes went by and Remy Chua woke up, remembering nothing.

Television Repair

Remy – developing an increasing fear of Allan Showery, the face from her dream – left her job at Edgewater Hospital. A few weeks later while on the phone to José, she dropped into another trance. Speaking in Tagalog again as Teresita Basa, Remy asked her husband if he had told the police yet. José Chua said that he would, but he had nothing to tell them. She gave him the name "Allan", but it still wasn't enough to go on.

Several days later Remy had another Tagalog-ian Teresita trance that gave José plenty to tell the police: her killers name was Allan Showery and he stole some of her jewelry to give to his girlfriend. She also mentioned the names of several people who could identify the jewelry, even providing the phone number for one of them. Her last, somewhat chilling words: "Tell them that Al came to fix my television, and he killed me and burned me."

José called the police and – after some initial skepticism – they went to Showery's home. The police had no warrant but asked Showery (who was with his girlfriend at the time) to come down to the station with them. Showery agreed. When asked about the night of Basa's murder, Showery admitted that he had *arranged* to repair her television but Basa had cancelled, so he went to work on an electrical problem back at home. The police left Showery at the station and went to cross-check his story with his girlfriend, which didn't go down well for him. She told them Showery didn't know the first thing about fixing electrical problems. Next they asked if she'd received any jewelry recently: she showed them the pendant and ring she was wearing, both of them given to her by Showery recently as late Christmas presents. Classy. The police showed both pieces of jewelry to

Teresita's cousin – owner of the trance-received telephone number – and she confirmed they had belonged to Teresita.

While on trial, the defense lobbied to have the case dismissed: surely a ghost couldn't testify? The judge overruled and the trial continued for a month, but the jury remained deadlocked. A hung jury was declared. While waiting for a retrial, Allan Showery confessed everything. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison for the murder of Teresita Basa, with an additional eight for aggravated arson and robbery. He would serve less than five before being released.

Secrets of the Unconscious

Although cases of possession have been recorded that appear to involve elements outside current understanding, Remy Chua seems to have undergone an explicable, albeit uncontrolled, unconscious projection. By all accounts she honestly believed that she was being visited by Teresita, and her husband at least believed that *she* believed it. Remy, José and Teresita were all born and raised in the Philippines – a country where folk belief, urban legend and ghost tales are both widespread and varied.

Commonly (as with ghosts in many cultures), Filipino ghosts – known as *multo* – are often thought to return in order to avenge a wrongdoing, complete a task, or correct an improper burial. They are also considered more likely to appear after a violent death or suicide. And although it's almost 40 years later, it's interesting to hear that last year the Filipino Catholic Church said cases of demonic possession had risen "three-fold" – Chief excorcist Father José Francisco Syquia elaborated, saying "These days we have around 80 to 100 cases at any given time." Also of note: The Philippines were a Spanish colony for over 300 years (until the Americans took over in 1898); something to think about when pondering Remy's accent while she spoke Teresitian Tagalog.

Remy worked with both victim and killer, meaning she could've come across or overheard details (Showery was a known braggart) that her unconscious pieced together. And she primed her mind for the revelation: "She can come to me in a dream. I'm not afraid." Remy was dreaming when she saw the face of the murderer revealed as Allan Showery, a state of almost pure unconscious expression.

Similarly, for at least two of her possessed episodes, she was in a state of near-sleep – also known as a 'hypnopompic' state, or period of threshold consciousness occurring between sleep and wakefulness. Psychologists and physicians have observed an increased probability of auditory and visual hallucinations, lucid dreams, and sleep paralysis in hypnopompic subjects – in other words, Remy would have been both more in touch with her unconscious during this state, and prime to project its contents into a form she had no control over.

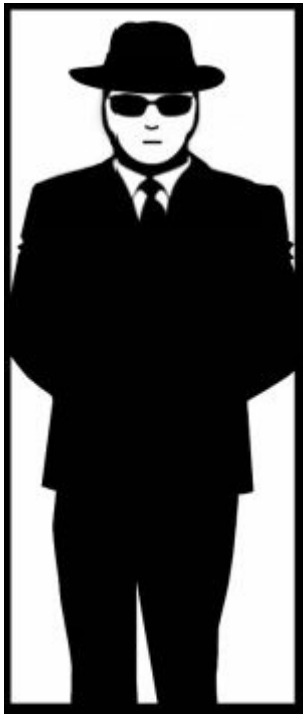
Another of her episodes occurred while she was on the phone to her husband, yet another was initiated by an overheard telephone conversation her husband was having at the time. A telephone is an instrument of communication

whereby two (or more) people can talk to one another without the need for physical proximity: could this have triggered – on some level – Remy's 'communication' with someone else who wasn't physically present? It should also be remembered that the key ingredient for unconscious projection is repressed emotion. A co-worker murdered violently, her murderer continuing to work as a free man, in the same location... certainly ingredients that would encourage repression.

There's also the possibility that Remy had uncovered – or overheard – malicious intent that Showery had for Basa *before* her death. If Remy hesitated with what she knew, and then Teresita was killed... at least a certain amount of repression would be assumed. But now we enter more shadowy realms of speculation. All that can be said for certain is that Teresita Basa was murdered 39 years ago and her killer – Allan Showery – got let off far too lightly.

As for Remibias 'Remy' Chua? Without her Showery could've gotten away with it, been encouraged by the apparent ease, and – who knows? – even killed again. Whether Teresita's ghost was forged in the unknown recesses of a human mind or came from somewhere else entirely, it should be resting peacefully now.

Chapter 6:
The Men in Black



1. See you later

September 3, 1965. Two Texan sheriffs – Deputy Bob Goode and Chief Deputy Bill McCoy – were on patrol. Goode nursed an alligator bite on his finger from earlier in the night and drove down Highway 36 with McCoy riding shotgun. It was almost 11pm and Goode was annoyed he'd have to wake a doctor when their shift ended. Then, on the horizon, they both saw a strange light in the clear night sky. They debated for a few minutes about what it was before pulling over to get a better look: it was purple, with a blue light that seemed to move slowly within it. They drove closer and stopped again to watch, Goode resting his wounded hand out the open window.

Suddenly, and with great speed, the light began moving toward the car. It stopped 150 feet away in a nearby pasture, 100 feet off the ground. The long grass underneath it remained undisturbed. Both sheriffs agreed that the object was triangular shaped, grey, 200 feet wide, 40-50 feet thick, and made no noise. The grass, highway, and car interior were all illuminated by the (predominantly) purple glow. Goode, the closer of the two, felt a faint heat emanating from the object. After a few moments, fear

seized them and they took off down the highway, reaching speeds of 110mph (180kmph). McCoy kept watch out the back, half-expecting it to follow them. Instead, it "snapped back" to its original position over the horizon.

The panic subsided and the sheriffs went back to investigate further: the object did the same thing, and this time the men took off and didn't turn back. As the car returned to a regular speed, McCoy noticed that Goode was using his left hand again; he remarked "Well, Bob, the only good thing about this is, it's made you forget about your finger." Goode was startled. Indeed, his left hand was on the steering wheel. He pulled over and unwrapped the bandage: not only had the alligator bite stopped bleeding, but there was no redness or swelling. It had somehow healed. Goode threw the bandage away and the pair made a beeline for Jim Scott, City Judge of West Columbia (McCoy held some sway with the force – 42 people served under him). Judge Scott went out there with them, waiting an hour for the light to reappear. Nothing.

Several days later – but before local press had gotten wind of the story – the sheriff's station dispatch received a telephone call. Someone wanted to speak to McCoy about the UFO sighting he'd had. They were informed he wasn't

in town but that Deputy Goode was at lunch nearby. Two men, claiming to be reporters from Pasadena, found Goode at a local restaurant. Before he could tell them anything, however, they launched into a detailed description of what he'd seen.

Baffled, he listened as they went on to tell him that if the sheriffs hadn't fled, the object would have landed and they would have been greeted by beings much like themselves, taken aboard, and then returned upon promise of silence. The two men then left the stunned sheriff in the restaurant, never bothering to come back to speak to McCoy. The following Monday, McCoy returned, heard the news, and began inquiries at 'Pasadenas' in several nearby states. But no one knew of the reporters. They were never seen again.

Ellington Air Force Base's Major Leach headed an investigation into the affair – it would be one of 1600 cases that Project Blue Book listed as 'unidentified'. In his conclusion Leach stated: "there is no doubt in my mind that they definitely saw some unusual object or phenomenon... Both officers appeared to be intelligent, mature, level-headed persons capable of sound judgement and reasoning."

2. Late-night Bender

September 16, 1953. Albert Bender – director of the recently-formed International Flying Saucer Bureau – arrived home from a two-week vacation. He entered his room to find a sulphur-like smell and the white noise of a radio he hadn't left on. He opened the windows, switched off the radio, and went downstairs for a snack. It was late, so after brushing his teeth he returned to his room to prepare for sleep. Suddenly, blue lights appeared from nowhere and flew around him. Bender felt dizzy and stumbled to the bed. He became aware of three figures around him, floating a foot above the floor: "All of them were dressed in black clothes.

They looked like clergymen, but wore hats similar to Homburg style." Their faces were obscured, but despite the circumstances Bender felt fear leave and a light feeling wash over him. The visitors' eyes lit up "like flashlight bulbs" and they communicated with him mentally, asking him to refer to them simply as 1, 2 and 3. They told him various plans they had for earth – and for him – before leaving him with a shiny piece of metal and a simple instruction: if he wanted to contact them again, he had to turn his radio on, hold the strange metal, and repeat the word "Kazik". The three black-suited strangers

disappeared.

As strange as the encounter was (and the above events are only a sanitized prelude to what followed), Bender went on to describe the entities to his colleagues. He kept details of their mission secret (he would go on to reveal them in '62), so the account published in the October '53 edition of the IFSB's *Space Review* was low on the detail, high on the mystery. Who were these three shadow men? Did they threaten Bender not to reveal certain saucer secrets? Unknowingly, the moderately successful *Space Review* publication helped to launch a new UFOlogical phenomena – the Men in Black.

Jung at heart

The sheriff and Bender cases exemplify the diversity of the Men In Black (or MIB) phenomenon – rarely do two stories bear a strong resemblance. Nevertheless, if you generalize the dozens of MIB reports into a single narrative, you end up with something like the following:

- The experience occurs shortly after a UFO sighting, but before the witness has told anyone (alternately, the MIB visit *before* the sighting).

- While the witness is home alone, a sudden loud knock is heard at the door. The visitors are three men, vaguely oriental in appearance; their movements are stiff and awkward.

- They wear black suits, ties, shoes and hats, with white shirts – everything appears brand new, but is being worn uncomfortably.

- The men possess detailed knowledge of the sighting.

They flash a badge and – speaking in stilted, mechanical tones – claim to be from a government agency. They threaten the witness to keep quiet about the UFO, using phrases like those used by 'tough guys' in '40s gangster films.

- After a final warning they walk out to the driveway and leave in a large black Cadillac. The car is an old model, but appears immaculate. The number plates – if recorded – are later found to be non-existent.

- Excluding the last decade (and the online trend of faux-articles and creepypasta copy/pasting), almost half of all MIB reports come from 1966 – 1968, and almost all of *those* come from America. Although experienced worldwide, U.S. encounters dominate the literature. Why? And why the bizarre behavior? Let's start with the collective unconscious.

Swiss psychologist Carl Jung had a theory: beneath every personal unconscious swims a shared, 'collective' unconscious, teeming with primal human forces. To him (and to many who followed) this belief was supported by reoccurring motifs in both dream and mythological

narratives, motifs he called 'archetypes'. Of particular interest to us is the archetype known as the Trickster, which falls under the broader Jungian concept of the Shadow (don't worry, we'll get to that). Tricksters – like MIB – manifest in variations of a basic form; one instant they are malicious pranksters (MIB rarely follow through on threats), the next, almost savior figures (several MIB encounters resemble divine disclosures, *à la* Bender's). Jung connected Trickster expression to poltergeist phenomena and other elements of parapsychology; this, too, mirrors the tendency MIB case-reports have of including other 'fringe topics' like cryptozoology or time-travel.

And the Shadow? Put simply, it is the dark spot cast by the light of the Ego. An individual's Shadow personifies their fears, anxieties, and repressions... Could the MIB be Shadow-selves of modern society, molded in our collective unconscious?

Consider the following:

- Although Tricksters traditionally manifest alone, typically modern insecurities involve bureaucracy, red-

tape, and governmental control. All have grown exponentially since WWII, and all are reflected time and again in American culture. It's worth noting that the first, sketchy version of Bender's encounter came out in '53 – in middle of a wave of McCarthy-era paranoia.

- Variations on MIB attire also illustrate the above insecurities: reports variously describe CIA spooks, tax men, journalists, Air Force personnel, undertakers, and insurance salesmen.

- The '50s and '60s, besides birthing the MIB phenomena, also housed both the Korean and Vietnam wars; MIB are almost always described as 'Asiatic' or 'oriental'. Western fear of the East has a longer history still.

- Like an intruding unconscious thought, the MIB don't quite 'fit' with their surroundings. Their manner of speech and movement – stilted, surreal, nonsensical – resembles a dream intruding on rational waking life, with no regard for common laws of space and time. Anachronistic items – cars, clothes, watches – are simultaneously 'new' and old.

- The witness often enters a trance-like state before or during the encounter, making them ideally receptive to

either conscious or unconscious suggestion.

As the sheriff's story shows, however, the annals of the paranormal are dotted with cases that seem to have an observable physical element: they happened – to some extent – within the bounds of consensus reality. Could this argue for a *Tulpa*-like force that allows projections from our collective unconscious to physically enter our world (thought-forms)? Or is there something even stranger going on?

Chapter 7:
An Arecibo Answer?

Planets greeting

In May, 1899, Nikola Tesla – mad genius extraordinaire – moved to a Colorado Springs experimental station in order to develop and test theories relating to radio transmission, electric fields and resonant frequencies. He would live up to his eccentric reputation: his stay was accompanied by artificial lightning, light-bulb filaments that wouldn't shut off, arcing sparks beneath the feet of passing pedestrians, butterflies haloed by St Elmo's fire and a power station outage. It was an intense nine months.

Apart from detecting stationary waves and the resonant frequency of the earth, Tesla also claimed to have witnessed something far stranger: “The feeling is constantly growing on me that I had been the first to hear the greeting of one planet to another.” He had noted an unknown signal that changed periodically, one which – to

his mind – was not accidental. What was it? A mistake, or something more? In the same article ('Talking With Planets'), Tesla went on to say:

“I can readily demonstrate that, with an expenditure not exceeding two thousand horsepower, signals can be transmitted to a planet such as Mars with as much exactness and certitude as we now send messages by wire from New York to Philadelphia.”

75 years later, a team of scientists would broadcast the first such intentional message toward a globular star cluster known as M13.

Updated effort

The message (written by Frank Drake and Carl Sagan, among other contributors) was sent from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico, an observatory that somewhat dwarfs Tesla's 280-foot experimental tower. The 1,000-foot wide collecting dish is the largest in the world, having been constructed inside the remains of a giant karst sinkhole. Re-modelling was completed in 1974 and – to demonstrate the power of the new dish – a message was broadcast to a star cluster 25,000 light years distant. The less than three-minute radio message was a mere 210 bytes. Arranged graphically, top to bottom, the binary digits conveyed the following seven pieces of information:

- The numbers one to ten

- The atomic numbers of the elements that form DNA

- Nucleotide formulas (the constituents of DNA)

- The image of a DNA double helix, including nucleotide

pairs

- The image of a human, including average height and global population

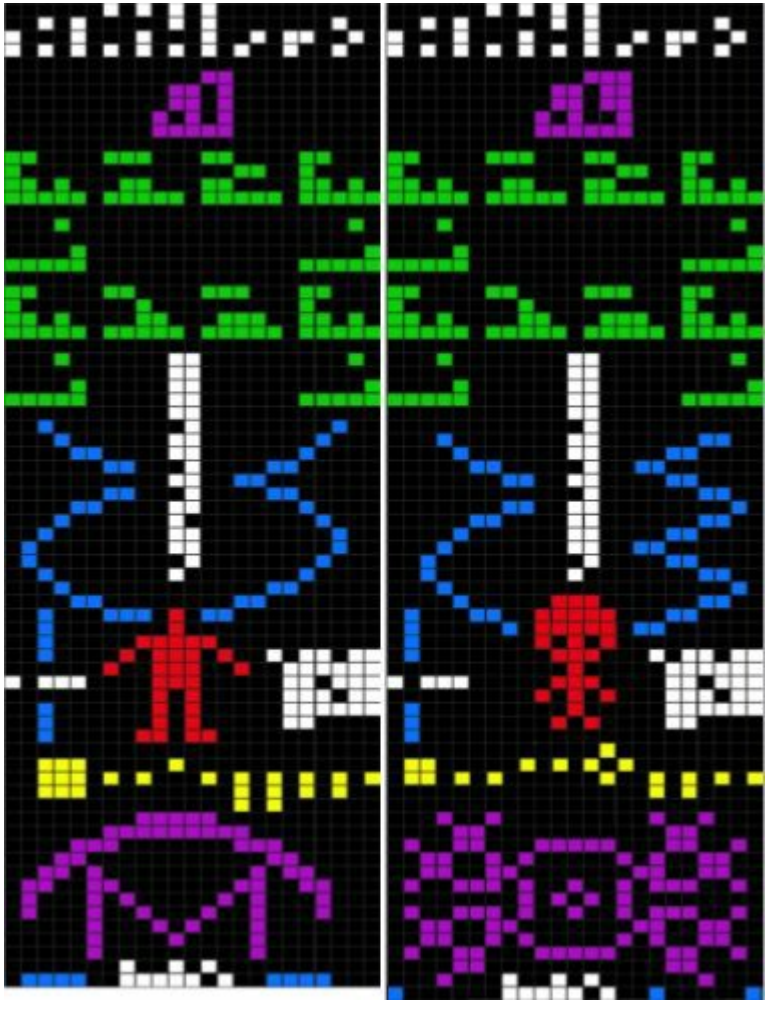
- The solar system, with the third planet highlighted (and Pluto still included)

- An image of the Arecibo dish along with its proportions

Although it will take a long time for the message to reach M13 (the broadcast was more a show of capability rather than a serious communication attempt), scientists *did* detect a strange signal less than three years later, originating from a different globular star cluster – M55. Known as the 'Wow! signal' (named after a margin-scribbled 'Wow!' on the computer printout), it lasted the full 72 seconds that Ohio's 'Big Ear' telescope was pointed at it. It was never repeated and remains unexplained.

A Possible Response

27 years after the Arecibo “message-in-a-bottle” was sent, a field near the Chilbolton Observatory in the English county of Hampshire received a reply. A direct one at that. A crop circle (well, rectangle) appeared – apparently overnight – in August, 2001 which bore an uncanny resemblance to the Arecibo broadcast. The 'response' mirrored the seven items of information contained in the original message, with some notable differences:



- The numbering system is also based 1 to 10

- Silicon is present along with the standard DNA elements

- The constituents of nucleotides are the same

- The DNA has an extra helix and extra pairs of nucleotides

- An image of a 'grey' alien is shown, with an indicated height of 3'4 and global population of 12.7 billion

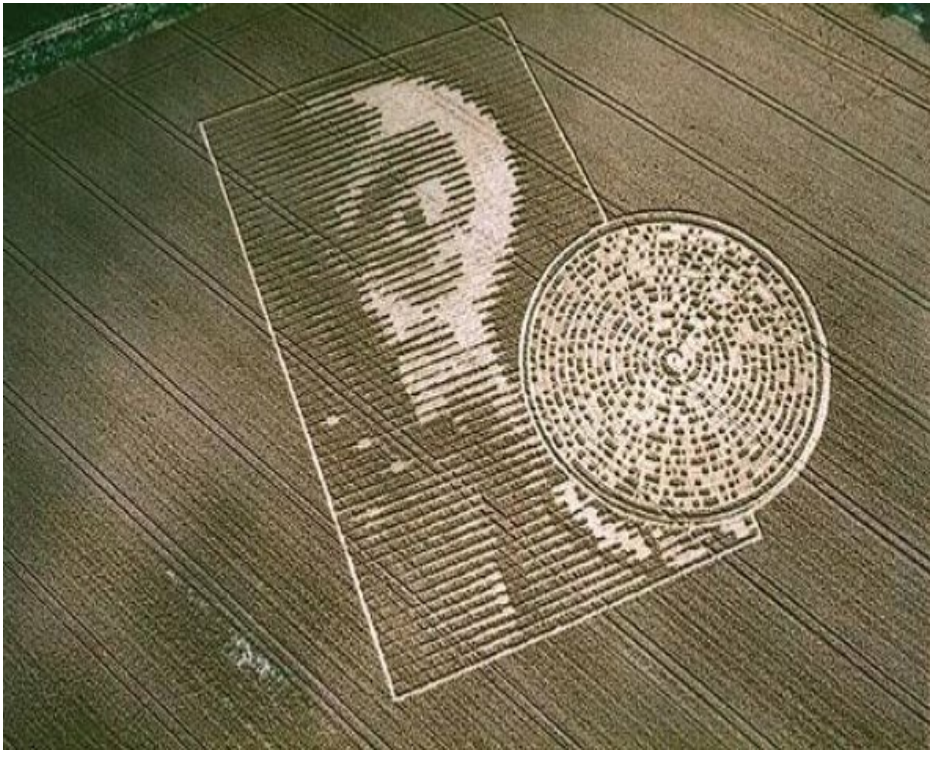
- Nine planets are depicted, however the sun is smaller and planets 3, 4 and 5 are highlighted

- A crop circle recorded in the same field a year before is depicted as the communication device.

The week before the Chilbolton response another crop circle was observed not far away, portraying a face that resembled both a 'grey' alien and what some perceived to be the Martian “Face of Cydonia”.

A year after that, yet another incredible crop circle in yet

another Hampshire field containing yet another binary code was discovered. It showed what looked like a detailed portrait of an extraterrestrial being, who looked to be holding a type of disc. When a computer expert managed to decode it, he found a cohesive message embedded in the round shape. Also linked by many to the Chilbolton response, it read as follows:



"Beware the bearers of FALSE gifts & their BROKEN PROMISES. Much PAIN but still time. BELIEVE.

There is GOOD out there. We Oppose DECEPTION. Conduit CLOSING."

Despite its highly interesting and detailed contents, the Chilbolton response is considered by many to be a hoax. However, as nobody ever saw or heard anyone or anything the nights that the mysterious crop circles emerged, none can say for sure who the makers really are. The fact that no one in the area managed catch even a single glimpse of any suspicious human activity seems quite strange, especially considering the incredible intricacy and vast scope of the imprints.

What about 'Wow!'?

On another note, what did Nikola Tesla detect in 1899? And what about 'Wow!', the enigmatic signal detected as a one-off in '77? On August 15, 2012 – to mark 35 years since receiving the 'Wow! Signal' at the Big Ear observatory in Ohio – scientists at Arecibo teamed up with the National Geographic Channel to send a response. It was a little different from the 210 bytes piped out to any open cosmic ears by Drake, Sagan and co. back in '74.

The new message contained over 10,000 Twitter messages, along with videos from celebrities including comedian Stephen Colbert and 2011 Miss Universe Leila Lopes. Scientists have assured tweeters that repeating-sequence headers were attached to each message, just so any potential extraterrestrial 'Big Ears' know the content is intentional. As of yet, no responses have been received.

Chapter 8:
Stonehenge & Superhenge

Before the Stones

Beneath a tourist car-park in Wiltshire, England, lie the earliest signs of human activity at Stonehenge – a handful of 10,000-year-old 'postholes', originally holding thick pine posts arranged east-west. The people who left them are all but forgotten, and there is precious little contextual understanding of what led their descendants to erect Britain's most famous monument. Unfortunately, as Joni Mitchell lamented, someone paved paradise and put up a parking lot.

Similarly, whatever lay buried in the center of Stonehenge will likely never be known thanks to the efforts of amateur 'barrow-diggers' – in 1839 a certain Captain Beamish (British gentry of the time enjoyed hobby archaeology) carelessly dug out 400 cubic feet of earth from inside the circle, destroying whatever lay buried there. But there are other prenatal precursors in the area: a causeway enclosure was constructed at Robin Hood's Ball around 4,000 BCE, and evidence from the nearby Blick settlement indicates that the area was in use for the next millennium, resulting in structures that are only now being uncovered.

Then, around 3,500 BCE, the 'Stonehenge Cursus' was built. Originally thought to be Roman race tracks, the

cursuses of neolithic Britain (numbering at least 50) served a purpose we still don't understand. The Stonehenge Cursus has an additional interesting feature: two artificial pits dug on the east and west ends that align (when viewed from the more famous monument's 'Heel Stone') with both the rising and setting of the sun at summer solstice. This not only strengthens the theory that *cursuses* had ritual significance (perhaps tracing solar cycles), it also suggests Stonehenge should be viewed in connection with its surrounds. 'Woodhenge', for example, was built around the same time as it's stony sibling and seems to have been used in conjunction with it, perhaps even divided or joined by the Cursus in a reflection of life (wood) and death (stone).

What's in a Henge?

By 3,100 BCE, a chalk bank and ditch enclosure circled by 56 pits (also known as 'Aubrey holes', after their founder) dominated the site. As with the Stonehenge Cursus, it's unknown what the Aubrey holes were used for: theories have included wooden post-holders, astronomical devices, or even the original holes for standing bluestones (which would mean megalithic construction began at Stonehenge 500 years earlier than currently thought).

In 2013 the remains of 63 cremated skeletons dating from this era of construction were unearthed, adding to finds in the surrounding area that indicate the site at least partially functioned as a graveyard. Remains at nearby Durrington Walls – believed by some to be an early Stonehenge builders camp – show people came from far and wide to the area; animal bones indicate gatherings of roughly 4,000 people around the solstices, which would be a true feat for the dispersed populations of neolithic Britain.

2,600 – 2,400 BCE marked the beginnings of megalithic construction at the site: this is when the monument we know today started taking shape. It began with a bluestone circle (oriented precisely toward midwinter sunset /

midsummer sunrise), which was soon after knocked down and encircled by 30 huge sarsen stones weighing 25 tons each. These were topped by an additional 30 stone lintels attached using mortise and tenon style joints. The bluestones were then again incorporated as an inner ring. It is – and was – an awe-inspiring construction. Who were the people who built it, and how did they accomplish it? And what was it for?

There are older circles of stone: The previously mentioned Göbekli Tepe in Turkey, sunken Atlit Yam off the coast of Israel, Nabta Playa in the Southern Egyptian deserts, the Portuguese Almendres Cromlech complex, Malta's Xaghra Circle and the Zorats Karer in Armenia, all of which pre-date Stonehenge – some by more than 5,000 years. Did stone-circle-building come naturally to the Brits, or was there influence from further afield? Although history gets decidedly murky before the written word, there was at least one significant cultural movement going on in Europe that would make its way to the British Isles, and it happened at the same time Stonehenge became megalithic.

Bringing Britain Bronze: Bell-Beaker Culture

Not much is known about the Beaker people; their geographic origins, migratory movements, colonial impact, and even classification as a 'culture' have been widely contested. Named after their distinctive style of pottery, they have become associated with the spread of Bronze Age ideas throughout western Europe; indeed, they are thought to have brought metalworking, alcohol, woven garments, and even patriarchal society into Britain.

Earlier Neolithic cultures were typically more communal and egalitarian, but Beaker culture brought the idea of the ruling warrior-king: long-barrow graves – mass tombs for the undifferentiated dead – became replaced with barrow mounds (or *tumuli*), individual graves adorned with status-signifying goods. The Bronze Age was here. And one of the people who brought it with him was a man the press dubbed 'the King of Stonehenge'.

Alpine Amesbury Archer

In May 2002, excavations began in Amesbury for a new school three miles from Stonehenge – work was soon stopped when the remains of a 4,300-year-old grave-site

were unearthed, roughly contemporary with construction of Stonehenge's first megaliths. 'The Amesbury Archer', as he became known, was interred along with the largest amount of artefacts found in any Bronze Age British grave, including two gold hair tresses – the first securely dated gold in all Britain. Perhaps most interesting, study of his Bell-Beaker-style pottery, arrowheads, and tooth enamel revealed that he came from the European Alps, probably Switzerland or Germany. Why did he come so far? Did he know of Stonehenge? A royal metalworker – perhaps Britain's first – bringing revolutionary ideas and materials to a neolithic culture... did he inaugurate the first set of bluestone circles?

At some point during his youth, the Amesbury Archer sustained a traumatic leg injury, leaving him with a bone infection and a lifelong limp; he also had a tooth abscess that penetrated his jaw, begging the question as to why he made the journey in the first place. Did he limp, or was he carried across Europe? Professors Darvill and Wainwright have noted that around half of the bodies found at Stonehenge were from outside the area, and an "abnormal number" of skeletons show serious signs of disease and injury; according to their theory, Stonehenge was renowned across the European mainland as a center of healing. A "neolithic Lourdes" as it were. If this were

so – and it certainly would give motivation for the Archer's pilgrimage – what effect did this copper-and-gold-working Bronze Age magician have on neolithic culture? Did he bring stone circle secrets from further afield? Ultimately, his secrets may have been buried forever with him. But with the rate of new archaeological discoveries and timeline re-writes, the answers – and yet more questions – may well be waiting underground.

What Lies Beneath

In 2014, some of these questions saw the light of day. Well, almost. Archaeologist Vince Gaffney, in conjunction with the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project, published the results of a four square mile underground survey of Stonehenge and the surrounding area which showed at least 15 previously unknown (or barely known) neolithic constructions. Also discovered was the artificial 'pit' on the east side of the Cursus, showing a solstice alignment with Stonehenge's 'Heel Stone'; Gaffney believes these correlations extended further, amounting to a sort of processional route through the sacred area.

Archaeologists Mike Parker Pearson and Ramilisonina have expressed similar opinions, believing a funerary procession beginning at Woodhenge in the east proceeded down the Avon and terminated at Stonehenge, mirroring proposed ideologies of birth (wood), the course of life (river), and death (stone).

Could Stonehenge, its Cursus, the Avon River and Woodhenge have composed a greater whole, a sort of sacred landscape? Further evidence was uncovered – or detected – by the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project

in September 2015. The nearby Durrington Walls, believed to have originally been a builder's camp for Stonehenge workers, revealed a previously unknown circle of 90 stones buried beneath the banked enclosure. Measuring 1,640 feet in diameter, archaeologists have dubbed it "Superhenge", and speculate it comprised a megalithic circle roughly contemporary with Woodhenge, Stonehenge and the Cursus. At present, however, we have only surveys – spade has yet to hit dirt, as they say. Whether Superhenge and associated underground structures prove the key to unravelling Stonehenge's mysteries remains to be seen.

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Eirik Leivsson

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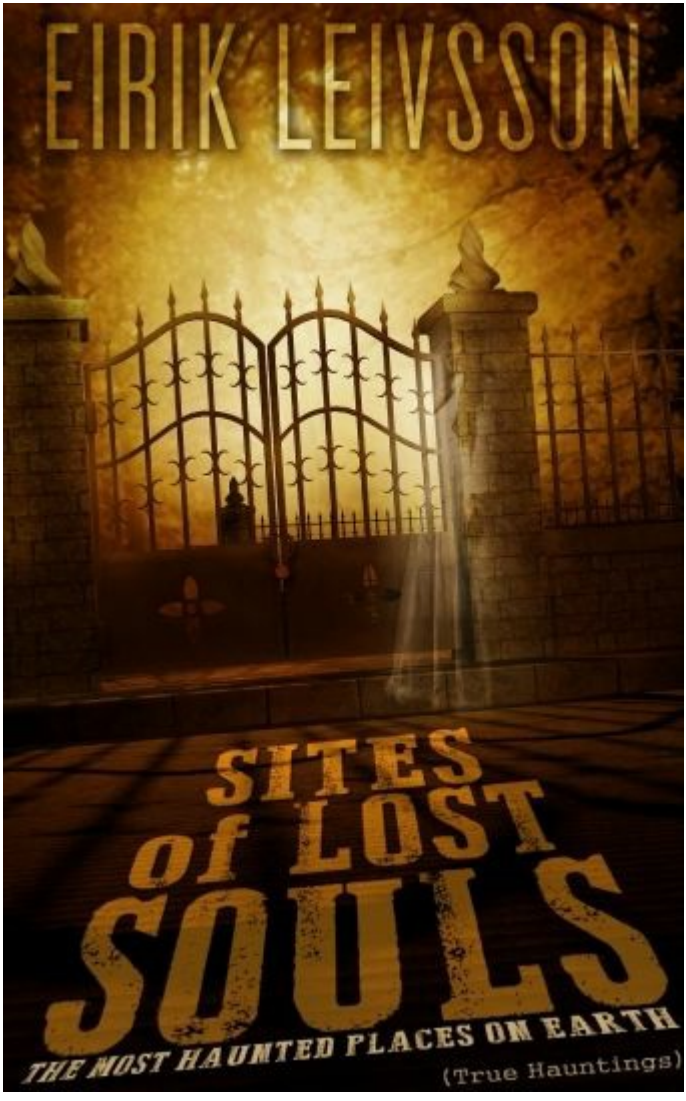
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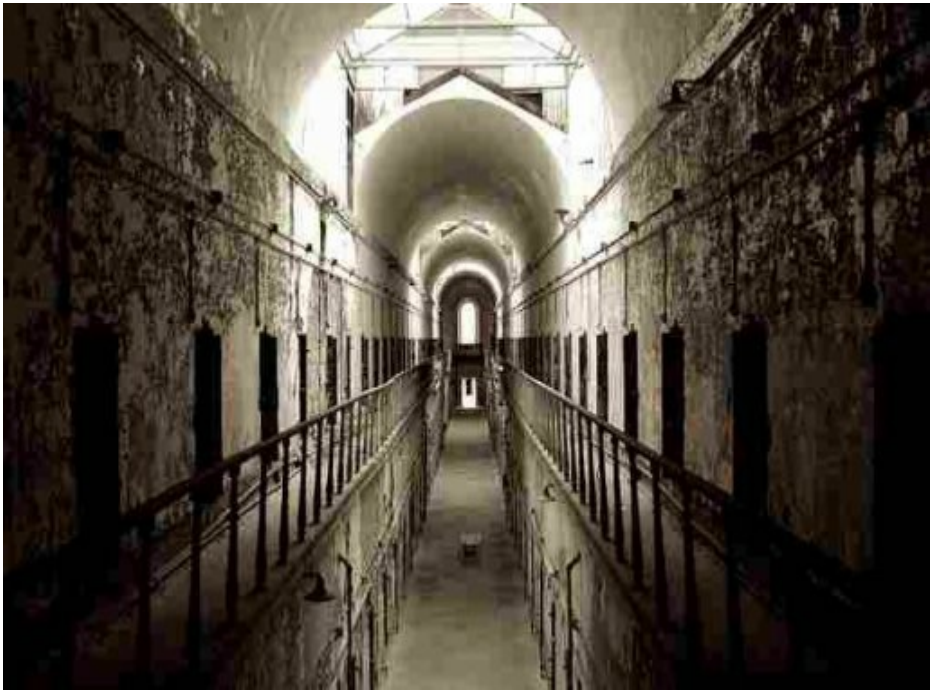
Chapter 3:
The Eastern State Penitentiary



One of the most popular, infamous and haunted destinations for Ghost hunters is the Eastern State Penitentiary. With a history of inmate abuse and torture, the wagon-wheel designed building was once the most expensive prison in the world. Today it stands crumbling, empty and in decay. When it opened its doors on October 25th 1829, it was designed for rehabilitation rather than punishment - with inspiration from the Quakers – a puritanical Christian order. Although some say that less than half were Quakers, with the *Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons* providing the impetus for construction and design. It offered inmates the opportunity for reflection and penitence, inspired by its Gothic, church-like resemblance - complete with vaulted ceilings, 30-feet tall stone walls, towers and iron gates.

All prison cells contained bibles, and the skylights were considered to be the "Eye of God." Prisoners were originally supposed to enter their cells through a small door (large enough to pass meals through) – believed to have been created to force the inmates to bow when entering. Eventually this feature became impractical, so they added metal doors that were covered by heavy, wooden doors to drown out the noise.

It was the first prison to incorporate solitary confinement in its program, along with the conviction that isolation was imperative for reflection and therefore – penitence and salvation. For some, their whole sentence was spent in isolation – if they survived. Even when they left their cells for work detail, they were made to wear hoods or heavy masks that prevented them from communicating with other inmates.

The prison was designed to hold approximately 253 prisoners at any given time, but each cell had running water and its own toilet. The cells were even heated. Some say that in the early days, inmates were allowed to keep pets in the exercise yards. Many prisons around the world copied the design of Eastern State Penitentiary, as well as their philosophy regarding rehabilitation. However, Charles Dickens visited the prison during the 1840's, and noted the appalling conditions and treatment of the inmates - describing them as "buried alive."

In 1913, Eastern State Penitentiary officially abandoned their solitary confinement system due to being overcrowded. The majority of the early prisoners were incarcerated for petty crimes – such as pick-pocketing, purse snatching, mugging and burglary. The most notable

inmates housed at the prison included the notorious Al Capone and bank robber Willie Sutton. Al Capone was allowed to live in relative luxury during his stay – decorating his room with paintings, rugs and antiques. He himself complained about being haunted by the ghost of James Clark, who was one of the victims in the St Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago (The massacre was instigated by gang rivalry, which Capone was involved in).

Willie Sutton's attempt to tunnel out of Eastern State Penitentiary was thwarted, and many partially dug tunnels were found under the prison over the years. In contrast to the original motivation for rehabilitating inmates and moving them towards salvation, the guards and other officials designed a variety of horrifying psychological and physical tortures for those who bucked against the system. Some of these included drenching the prisoners in freezing water during winter (leaving them outside until iced over), contraptions with chains connected to their tongues and wrists (which tore their tongues if they struggled) and strapping them to chairs so tightly that some needed amputation for the limbs where their circulation had been cut off.

It is widely believed that the prison's torturous regimen and forced starvation caused insanity and mental illness in most of the inmates. Many committed suicide – along with murders and other retaliatory crimes. In the 1940's, inmates and officers talked about seeing strange visions and experiencing eerie feelings.

The prison closed in 1970 and was considered abandoned from 1971 through the end of the 1980's. Apparently, a forest grew in the cell blocks and along the walls, with a high amount of stray cats making their home there. It then reopened as a museum in 1996 – with paranormal activity and numerous ghost sightings being reported. Some tell of a shadowy figure watching over the prison from one of the towers, along with reports of terrifying screams, crying and desperate pleas for help.

Visitors and ghost hunters have heard phantom footsteps in the yard, pacing in the cells, creepy noises, chilling laughter and wailing through the corridors. Many paranormal investigators visit the prison each year, reporting activity in particular cell blocks, including: number 6 – shadow figures; number 12 – cackling and the echoes of voices and number 4 – ghostly faces.

One man who helps with the maintenance of the broken locks tells of a time when he was in Cell block 4, feeling something grip him so tight that he was frozen to the spot. He then felt a negative energy "exploding" throughout the cell and he saw tormented faces on the walls. One of the faces apparently beckoned to him.

The catwalk section is one of the more popular areas of the prison, where the *Ghosthunters* TV show caught a shadowy apparition rushing towards the camera. Many EVP's (audio recordings of ghosts) have been captured. One of them was a voice that stated, "I'm lonely." Temperature fluctuations, eerie whispering and the overwhelming sensation of being watched have also been reported.

Some tell stories about being pushed down stairs, cold chills and a dark figure who stands motionless until someone approaches – before darting away. At times, electronic equipment suddenly malfunctions for no apparent reason, according to ghost hunters and visitors who go to investigate the prison.

Many fundraising projects have been created to preserve the famously haunted Eastern State Penitentiary, which has been used as a set for TV shows (including ghost hunting episodes), music videos, computer games and several films. Terry Gilliam shot some scenes from "Twelve Monkeys" there – using it for the mental hospital. Steve Buscemi also used the prison for his film "Animal factory", where he portrays the decline of a prison crumbling in ruin. Paramount pictures used parts of the prison for its film "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen."

Now operating as a museum and historical site, Eastern State Penitentiary is open all year round, with guided tours and self-guided tours (headphones are provided with a recording narrated by the former guards, prisoners and Steve Buscemi.) There are scavenger hunts for children, special events, celebrations and an event conducted every Fall – known as "Terror Behind the Walls." It features six Hollywood-scale sets with over 200 actors dressed as scary prison guards and ghosts.

Even though there are some who state that they haven't experienced anything paranormal in the haunted prison, there are plenty who say that they have, and that they have the recordings, pictures and video footage to prove it.

“The creation is vast.
Mysteries abound.
Keep the mind clear.
What is sought, shall be found.”